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SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2005

Iraqis hopeful despite attacks across nation

■ U.S. Embassy strike kills two ■ Young GIs play leading roles
■ Insurgents target polling sites ■ Iraqi poll workers take risks

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Soldiers from the 1-161 Infantry from the Washington National Guard patrol a polling station in Jisr Daila, Iraq, on Saturday.

AP

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Los Alamos investigation: A report concludes two computer disks that disappeared — prompting a virtual shut-down at one of the nation's leading nuclear weapons laboratories — never existed.

"We got whopped," a spokesman for the University of California, which manages Los Alamos National Laboratory, said Friday.

In a harshly worded report that described severe security weaknesses at the nuclear weapons lab in Albuquerque, N.M., the Energy Department concluded bar codes were recorded for the disks, but the disks themselves were never created.

Archdiocese sex scandal trial: The wife of a man who was allegedly raped as a child by defrocked priest Paul Shanley said her spouse had night sweats and curled up on the floor after recovering memories of the alleged abuse.

Testifying Friday in Shanley's rape trial in Cambridge, Mass., the woman said her husband became distraught during a Feb. 11, 2002, phone conversation when she told him about a newspaper article in which a close friend of his described being abused by Shanley.

Chemical fire in Washington: A chemical fire that burned for nearly two days in Grandview, Wash., finally went out Friday and authorities allowed hundreds of evacuated residents to return home.

State and federal authorities continued to monitor air quality in the area, said Lt. Jim Keightley, spokesman for the State Patrol.

Hmong refugee resettlement: The resettlement of thousands of Hmong refugees from Thailand has been temporarily halted because tuberculosis has been diagnosed among some refugees in the United States and at the camp, the U.S. State Department announced Friday.

To date, four of the estimated 2,123 Hmong refugees who have resettled in Wisconsin since June have tested positive for active tuberculosis and are undergoing treatment, said Jeffrey Davis, chief medical officer for communicable diseases with the state Division of Public Health.

Minnesota has one confirmed TB case and four suspected cases and California has reported 20 confirmed tuberculosis cases among Hmong refugees.

Former Philippine leader's son: The son of former Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos has been ordered to appear in federal court during a goodwill visit in Honolulu next month.

The order, issued Wednesday, allows Ferdinand "Bong Bong" Marcos Jr. to travel to Hawaii despite controversy over charges pending against him and his mother, former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos. It bars him from speaking in public about pending litigation, however.

Pledge of Allegiance case: An official in a small tourist town sued his colleagues Friday, saying they're unfairly targeting him for recalling over his refusal to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at board meetings.

Estes Park, Colo., town trustee David Habescher, who describes himself as agnostic, says the words "under God" in the pledge violate his religious beliefs and are at odds with the separation of church and state, according to his lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Denver.

Ohio election challenge: Four lawyers behind a failed challenge of Ohio's presidential election results defended themselves Friday against the state attorney general's efforts to have them sanctioned for filing a "frivolous" case.

In legal documents filed with the Ohio Su-



Cuban-boy raid suit: Maria Riera, right, and Jesus Rodriguez, talk to the media Monday in Miami, after testifying in the Elian Gonzalez civil lawsuit filed by people who lived near the raid site. Riera was doused with tear gas during the raid. Riera was the opening witness in the trial of 13 people seeking in damages on claims that federal agents used unnecessary excessive force during the April 2000 raid, leaving them injured and emotionally distraught.

preme Court, the lawyers said the challenge they filed on behalf of 37 voters included enough evidence of voting irregularities to back up their allegations of widespread fraud.

The filing by Cliff Arnebeck, Robert Fitztricks, Susan Truitt and Peter Peckarsky was in response to Attorney General Jim Petro's Jan. 19 request to sanction them.

Fla. right-to-die case: In the latest effort to keep a severely brain-damaged Florida woman alive, a lawyer for Terri Schiavo's parents argued Friday that she should have been represented by her own attorney throughout the legal proceedings.

The parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, have waged a long fight in several courts to prevent their daughter's husband, Michael, from removing the feeding tube that keeps her alive.

Schindler

With the Schindlers' legal options dwindling, attorney David Gibbs asked a judge to let him proceed with a motion arguing that Terri Schiavo's due-process rights were violated by never having her own attorney.

Nevada state initiatives: Three state initiatives — including one that would make Nevada the first state to legalize possession of small amounts of marijuana — were revived Friday when a judge ruled that the secretary of state was wrong to raise petition requirements while signatures were being gathered.

If the Legislature does not approve the initiatives, including two anti-smoking measures, they will end up on the 2006 election ballot.

Human smuggling trial: A Houston judge on Friday denied a request by the alleged ringleader behind the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt to withdraw her guilty plea in the case.

The decision came after a court hearing that included secret testimony by a confidential informant and open testimony by a deputy constable who admitted he led to defense attorneys about possible bribery.

Karla Patricia Chavez pleaded guilty in June to one count of conspiring to harbor and transport illegal immigrants in a man-

ner that led to their deaths.

World

Vatican and annulments: Pope John Paul II on Saturday reiterated his disapproval of granting marriage annulments too easily, telling members of a Vatican tribunal that there is a risk of falsity and corruption during the process.

The pontiff made the remarks in a speech at Vatican City to the Roman Rota, the Vatican tribunal that can grant marriage annulments. He has often complained in the past that the Church was granting annulments too often, and has frequently spoken out about the sanctity of marriage.

Deadly Sudan riots: Police clashed with rioting tribesmen on Saturday in the coastal city of Port Sudan, leaving at least 14 people dead and 10 injured, a government official said. A tribal representative claimed 25 people were dead. Amir Tahir, a Beja tribe political leader, said 100 people were wounded when Sudanese security forces fired on demonstrators.

Al-Qaida arrests in Germany: An alleged al-Qaida member arrested last week told authorities he was sent to Germany by Osama bin Laden to recruit participants for holy war, a leading weekly reported Saturday. Frankfurt police told Der Spiegel weekly they had overheard the man, identified only as Ibrahim Mohamed K., a 29-year-old Iraqi, telling a friend in code used by al-Qaida supporters that bin Laden had sent him on the mission.

War on terrorism

Gitmo hearings: Secretive proceedings aimed at determining whether terror suspects at the U.S. prison camp in Guantanamo Bay pose a threat or hold valuable intelligence are continuing without media access, prompting fierce criticism of the camp after an insider described how female interrogators used sexual innuendo to break Muslim prisoners.

With two more hearings scheduled for Friday, the Administrative Review Boards started more than two months ago to decide whether detainees still pose a threat to the United States or have intelligence value.

The military has acknowledged holding 16 hearings but no other information is being provided and journalists have been barred.

Stories and photos from wire services

2 dead in attack on U.S. Embassy in Iraq

Eight Iraqis, one GI killed in election-eve attacks; insurgents bomb polling places

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A rocket hit the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on Saturday, killing two Americans who worked there and wounding four others on the eve of Iraq's landmark elections, a U.S. Embassy official said on the condition of anonymity.

The rocket fell into the Embassy's compound, near the building itself in the heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad, according to the embassy official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

One civilian and one Navy sailor, both assigned to the embassy, were killed in the rocket attack, a military official said, also on condition of anonymity. Of the four injured Americans, two were military, one was a civilian and the fourth was as yet unidentified, the military official said.

Insurgents killed eight Iraqis and a U.S. soldier in other attacks Saturday and blasted polling places across the country on the eve of landmark elections, at Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's government urged Iraqis to overcome their fear of violence and vote.

The soldier from Task Force Baghdad was killed by a roadside bomb in a western district of the capital, the military said.

Bursts of heavy machine gun fire rumbled through central districts at midday, and several heavy explosions were heard in a town area in the afternoon. Ameri-



An Iraqi guards a polling station Saturday as a child peers out at him in the Al Saei district of Basra, in southern Iraq. Security remains heavy leading into Sunday's elections.

can fighter jets roared through the skies in a show of force.

Iraqi police and soldiers set up nighttime curfew imposed across the country and the borders sealed.

Seven American soldiers were killed Friday in the Baghdad area, including two pilots who

died in the crash of their OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter.

West of the capital, in the insurgent bastion of Ramadi, five Iraqis with hands tied behind their backs were found slain Saturday

on a city street. One of the bodies was decapitated. Militants accused them of working for the Americans.

Sunni Muslim extremists have warned Iraqis not to participate in the election Sunday, threatening to "wash the streets" in blood.

At a press conference, Allawi's spokesman sought to boost Iraqi morale, appealing to his countrymen to take part in the election.

"I encourage the Iraqi people to overcome their fear. It is important. It will preserve the integrity of Iraq," spokesman Thaeer al-Naqeeb said. "If you vote... the terrorists will be defeated."

Allawi ordered a 30-day extension of the state of emergency in place across the country, except for Kurdish areas in the north, his office said in a statement. The current state of emergency, first declared in November, was to run out on Feb. 8. President Ghazi al-Yawer acknowledged that the violence and insurgent threats could keep many from voting — though he said he expected a majority to cast ballots and that few would stay away because of calls for a boycott by some Sunni clerics who say the vote is illegitimate.

"We hope, God willing, that turnout at polling stations will be high," al-Yawer told Al-Arabia television.

Attacks on polling stations were reported in at least eight cities across the north and far north to Basra in the south.

After extensive planning, Iraqis head to polls

By HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

YOUSSEFYAH, Iraq — Just ahead of the first free balloting in Iraq in half a century, the nation flattened down for the vote, imposing a curfew and closing Baghdad International Airport.

The curfew will remain in effect through Monday and the nation's borders will be sealed for the election period. Medical teams are on alert and nationwide restrictions on traffic will be imposed from Saturday to Monday to try and deter car bombs.

About 300,000 Iraqi, American and other multinational troops and police will provide security for the voting at 5,300 polling centers.

Voters will choose a 275-member National Assembly and governing councils in the 18 provinces. Voters in the Kurdish-ruled area will choose a new regional parliament.

Expatriate Iraqis began casting ballots amid tight security in early voting in 14 countries on Friday.

There were few election posters or banners Friday but plenty of graffiti protesting death to voters in Youssefyah, a heavily Sunni Arab area south of Baghdad, where nostalgia for Saddam endures and hostility toward the United States is widespread.

Majority Shiites will make up an estimated 60 percent of the population, are expected to turn

Q&A: How results will be compiled and counted

The Associated Press

Who will compile, assess and announce the election results? The Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, assisted by U.N. advisers, will announce partial results on election night. Complete results could take as long as 7-10 days to compile, however. What the commission says about both turnout and results will probably be the most credible information about the vote.

No independent groups are believed to be planning exit polling, mostly out of security concerns.

U.S. officials advise the electoral commission, but they have said they will play mostly a behind-the-scenes role on election day.

Who will watch for possible problems? The elections will be observed by 128 international monitors working inside Iraq, and many others watching from neighboring countries like Jordan. While the number inside the country is relatively small,

any concerns these monitors raise about the vote's fairness or problems with ballots, for example, would be considered credible.

About 18,000 Iraqis have been trained as independent monitors to stand at polls and observe. Another 23,000 representative from Iraqi political parties will keep a close eye on what happens.

Who will count and announce the number of Iraqis who voted, and how will observers know if the voters are Shiite Arabs, Kurds or Sunni Arabs? The Iraqi electoral commission will compile all ballots nationwide, and thus eventually will have a complete turnout figure. But that could take 10 days or more to compile.

Some parts of Iraq are heavily Shiite. If large numbers of people show up at the polls in those neighborhoods, then it's likely Shiite turnout will be high. The same goes for Kurdish areas. It could be more difficult to tell the extent of Sunni turnout because Sunnis more often live in mixed Sunni-Shiite neighborhoods.

A Western election adviser in Baghdad said Sunni turnout could be as high as 50 percent if election day violence is low and if the boycott call is not heeded. But it could also be as low as 15 percent, the adviser said on condition of anonymity. Key Shiite candidates repeatedly have sought to reassure Sunni Arabs that, regardless of how they fare in the vote, they will be included in the next government and the drafting of a new constitution.

Bush: Vote won't end Iraq violence

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush cautioned that Iraq's elections will not put an end to terrorist violence. But he said the vote will mark the beginning of peace, stability, prosperity and justice for the troubled country.

"Tomorrow's election will add to the momentum of democracy," Bush said in using his weekly radio address to urge Iraqis to describe his long-term goal for the United States to help rid the world of tyranny.

He said terrorists will stop at nothing to prevent or disrupt Sunday's voting because so much is at stake. "The terrorists and those who benefit from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein know that free elections will expose the emptiness of their vision for Iraq."

Bush has a lot at stake, as well. Polls show Americans are growing increasingly anxious about the war, which has cost the lives of more than 1,400 U.S. troops.

The U.S. is pouring more than \$1 billion a week into Iraq, forcing Bush to ask Congress for an additional \$80 billion in wartime funds. About 150,000 Americans are serving in Iraq.

Young GIs open democracy's door ...

Army's youth take leadership roles during election set-up

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq — Sgt. 1st Class Clifford Jackson, all of 28 years old, is in control.

"Are you completely comfortable with this?" Jackson asks as he grills Rafaa, a nervous Iraqi election worker, Thursday afternoon.

A successful election in a rural section of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment's vast area of responsibility rests entirely on Rafaa's ability to train a group of 40 sheiks. First Infantry Division officers based in Schweinfurt, Germany, recruited the sheiks at the last minute after poll workers quit in the sheiks' villages.

"Which comes back to you," Jackson says to Rafaa as he slapped his big hand on the election official's small shoulder, using his 5-foot-10-inch, bulked-up frame to impress his point on the smaller Iraqi.

If Rafaa, who would not give his full name, thinks Friday's crash-course training session on ballots and ballot boxes — only 48 hours before the elections — didn't take, he needs to conduct it again, Jackson says.

Jackson has huge authority for a young noncommissioned officer. He is quickly mastering Arabic and has, perhaps, just the right personality to cope.

"I'm on the line between cocky and confident. Occasionally I cross the line to one side, sometimes the other," he says, laughing.

Confidence, even cockiness, may be a desirable character trait when Iraq's future — not to mention U.S. policy in Iraq — rests on shoulders of twenty-something soldiers and officers. If the election comes off in this area south-east of Tikrit, it will be because relatively junior troops across Iraq improvised and bluffed their way through endless complications, such as terrorists leaflets



PHOTOS BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Sheikh Abdullah Kareem, right, confers with Capt. Brendan Dignan during a break in a meeting between local community leaders and 1st Infantry Division troops, who are working behind the scenes to assist in the election process.

"from the Highest Messenger of God" promising death for those who vote.

Election workers quit. Sheiks come forward. But problem not necessarily solved.

Every plan needs a contingency because something is going to go wrong, says Capt. Brendan Dignan, 26. It's analogous to any battle, he says. Senior officers develop the strategy, with junior officers and NCOs executing.

But no one — Dignan, the Troop C fire support officer, Jackson, who works with Iraqi troops at Forward Operating Base Wilson; Maj. Keith Barclay, the squadron executive officer; or Capt. Paul Krattiger, Troop C commander —

has training for this. They're improvising every moment.

In a Thursday meeting chaired by Dignan at a staff conference room on FOB Wilson, the sheiks have, in the words of one, "deep reservations about the election."

They want to know if the Iraqi election committee will even recognize them as legitimate representatives, which hasn't happened yet. Can they even learn the election mechanics? They ask.

After all, elders tell a fresh-faced Dignan, they may be sheiks and community leaders, but they still are mostly illiterate farmers.

Dignan counters with wisdom and silver diplomacy beyond his years.

"Yes, but I know you to be wise men. I respect you as leaders of the community ... and men of great intelligence," he says. The government will recognize them, and everything is going to be fine, he says with quiet authority.

Everything is going perfectly, is his subliminal message.

But to Rafaa — who, it is becoming clear, is not meeting Dignan's expectations — the captain is firm. Rafaa has to take control of the meeting.

"This is your deal," he says bluntly to Rafaa. "I don't want to talk."

Rafaa, he continues, must explain the election materials so the sheiks can go home and teach their people how to hold the election. "That's why you're here," Dignan says through a translator. "We discussed this yesterday."

Rafaa reluctantly agrees to a brief interview, which boils down to his having pretty much no confidence that the election will even come off.

"We hope, *Insha'allah*," he says, using the Arabic phrase for "God's will."

By Friday afternoon, the election process is collapsing. Rafaa find a bomb in a polling booth. Intelligence reports indicate the plan may be to blow up polling stations on Election Day. The Iraqis know that not everyone in the room will survive the elections.

"Maybe not tomorrow. Maybe not next week," one poll worker says. But maybe a month from now, insurgents will kill him.

As the mutiny grows among the election workers at Ad-Dawra, north to FOB Wilson, Krattiger sweetens the deal, suggesting soldiers in civilian clothes could provide additional security at voting stations.

"There will be more security out there than you can think of," he says. "What we need is for you to be strong inside the polling areas to make sure the people can vote."

"May I remind you you're now part of history," Dignan says quietly. "The whole world is watching ..."

Barclay arrives after noon to try to quell the mutiny.

It's extremely unlikely that fellow tribe members will kill them, Barclay says. But as concerns grow, and more election workers balk, soldiers know that they have to instill confidence and courage.

Finally, in the early afternoon, Barclay pulls the mutineers aside for a Knute Rockne "are you a coward or patriot?" speech.

This is not about electing a president or prime minister, he begins. This is about electing the people who'll write Iraq's constitution.

"And a constitution is forever," he says.

Fifteen years down the line, what will they be able to say they did "on the day of the first great Iraqi election?" Barclay asks.

"I don't need guys who are going to quit on me when the going gets tough," he says.

Finally, soldiers and Iraqis reach a compromise — election workers will only help voters, but won't sign ballots. Iraqi soldiers will sign the ballots.

Despite working through countless puzzlingly trivial nuances, 1st ID soldiers and officers stay stoked.

"The way we look at it," Jackson says, "is that we're part of the biggest step Americans have taken here."

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boyd@mail.estrates.osd.mil



Staff Sgt. Clifford Jackson monitors the radio during a meeting Thursday between sheiks and 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment officials. Jackson is one of the young soldiers working with Iraqis on the election.

Iraqi election workers in the crosshairs

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — When Karim Khoeiri thinks of Sunday's historic elections, two images pop into his head. One is a bloodied portrait of car bombers ramming into lines of voters. The other is brighter, one of hopeful Iraqis freely casting ballots for the first time in decades.

It's that second image that keeps him going.

"We all have to sacrifice for our country," he said. "This is our chance to show the world that Iraqis care about their country."

On Sunday, Khoeiri will be among about 200,000 election employees checking voter IDs, handing out ballots and later counting them. In the war of intimidation that has marred the election process, election workers have been on the front line, facing threats from insurgents and, in some cases, death.

"We're so used to receiving threats, they've become as common as smoking cigarettes," said Anwar Latif, an al-Yahia, director of the electoral commission's office in eastern Diyala province.

He said some employees have received letters warning them to quit their jobs or be "slaughtered." Others have been told their children will be kidnapped.

Al-Yahia hasn't received any written warnings. But attackers have lobbed hand grenades at his

house and peppered it with machine-gun fire twice. The windows were shattered and the walls pockmarked. He escaped unhurt.

Al-Yahia said that in some areas of his religiously mixed province many people had been willing to work for the commission.

In others, mostly those dominated by Sunni Arabs, recruiting had been more difficult and workers had to be brought in from elsewhere.

The Sunni Arabs have been the least enthusiastic about the vote — an election expected to confirm their loss of power with the downfall of Saddam Hussein. Some will boycott it either out of fear of attacks from the mostly Sunni Arab insurgency or out of conviction that a vote held in the presence of foreign troops is illegitimate.

By contrast, Shiites and Kurds, eager to affirm their power in the new Iraq, are keen to make the process work.

The chief U.N. electoral official here, Carlos Valenzuela, has described intimidation of election workers as "high and very serious."

Commission spokesman Farid Ayar said 10 election workers have been killed so far.

Earlier this month, Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, the U.S. general responsible for security in northern Iraq, said that virtually every election worker in Nineveh province, which includes predominantly



An Iraqi election worker prepares ballot boxes Friday after their arrival at a warehouse in Hillia, south of Baghdad.

Arab Sunni Mosul, quit because of security fears. On Friday, commission member Adel al-Lami said all the employees had been replaced, but 90 percent had to be brought in from outside the province.

In ethnically mixed Kirkuk, several commission employees resigned about four days ago, but the vacancies had been filled, al-Lami said.

Even in heavily Shiite areas of south-central Iraq, a region far more stable than Mosul or Baghdad, several election workers were threatened and have resigned, a senior U.S. Embassy official has said.

Perhaps the most brazen of the assaults on election employees was a daylight attack in the heart of Baghdad last month, when three pistol-wielding gunmen dragged five election employees from a car and executed three of them. The two others escaped.

That attack left Noor Qais, a 24-year-old election employee in Baghdad, rethinking her job, albeit briefly.

"I stopped for a minute, but then I thought: The election is a goal. We have to continue this path to the end."

Despite the setbacks, election officials said they were sure there would be no shortage of workers on election day. For some, the work is seen as a national duty. But in a country plagued with unemployment, others say it's a way to put food on the table.

The commission pays \$200 for those willing to work the election and the few following days, a generous amount by Iraqi standards. Employees know the risks, and many try to play it safe.

"I had no relations with political parties or anything," al-Yahia said, "but since I joined the commission, I started having enemies."

Skeptics: American presence hurts vote

By JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

PARIS — Is an election held under foreign occupation, with voters braving car bombs and death threats, better than no election at all?

Even as expatriate Iraqis started voting Friday ahead of Sunday's big day, skeptics outside Iraq doubted that its first democratic election in half a century can be free and fair while U.S. troops stand guard.

Some fear the result will be disaster, not democracy germinating across the Middle East. Loud misgivings are heard both in Europe, where many countries opposed the U.S.-led invasion, and in the Middle East.

At Condoleezza Rice's swearing-in Friday as his new secretary of state, President Bush said: "The advent of democracy in Iraq will serve as a powerful example to reformers throughout the entire Middle East."

But Gaza City resident Hassan al-Khatib doesn't buy it.

"You can't have free and fair elections under occupation. They simply don't mean anything," he said. "This election is being forced by the Americans so they can say to the world, 'Look, we've brought democracy to Iraq... it's all a sham.'"

Opinions in Europe are more nuanced but still riddled with doubt. For many here, the U.S.-led invasion started as a disaster built on faulty premises and has only succeeded in encouraging terrorists and sully the image of western democracies in the Muslim world.

"People are scared to go to the polls. Terrorists and followers of Saddam Hussein can only benefit from the volatile situation," said the MF Dnes newspaper in the Czech Republic.

In Britain, where anger over Prime Minister Tony Blair's support for the U.S.-led invasion remains high, the "Guardian" has focused as much on Iraq's insurgents as on Sunday's vote.

"Is the world safer now?" asked a front-page headline in The Independent above pictures of the shell of a car used in a suicide attack. Osama bin Laden, an American fan in flames and a reminder of the weapons of mass destruction which were never found.

On Paris' streets, a quick survey of seven passers-by turned up four firmly in favor of the vote — surprising, given France's distaste with the Iraq invasion.

"It's a very good thing," said Olivier Baudry, 40. "But at the same time, I don't think it's possible to expect democracy from one country to another like that."

Abizaid: Iraqi people will bring their country together

BY MICHAEL GRACYK
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Millions of Iraqis will vote in the country's election Sunday despite the likelihood of bloodshed because they recognize the nation must move ahead and not return to tyranny, the commander of U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan said Friday.

Voters in Iraq's election are choosing the 275-member assembly that will draft the country's new constitution.

"They are no fools," Gen. John Abizaid said in an address to The Houston Forum. "They will bring their country together because they know they've got to move forward together."

Abizaid is head of the U.S. Central Command, responsible for forces in a 27-nation region stretching from the Horn of Africa to Afghanistan. He said coalition forces in Iraq are braced for suicide car bombs and extremists wearing suicide belts trying to get into polling places, particularly in Iraq's four Sunni provinces.

"It will be difficult and it will be bloody," he said. "But even there, large numbers of the Sunni community will come forward and participate and vote in the hope that the future will be better."

The success of the Iraqi election hinges largely on the participation of Iraq's Sunni Arabs, who make up about 20 percent of the country's 26 million people. Many remain loyal to Saddam Hussein and view Sunday's vote as illegitimate. Majority Shiites are expected to turn out.

Abizaid said Americans should be encouraged and Iraqis should be commended because every day Iraqis are fighting and dying for their country.



Abizaid

High hopes, low turnout for expat voters

By BEN FOX

The Associated Press

IRVINE, Calif. — The father and son drove for six hours to a decommissioned military base in California to cast their ballots, realizing a dream neither expected to come true in their lifetimes. Thousands of miles away, in polling stations in Syria, Turkey and Iran, that jubilation was echoed as Iraqis stepped up to participate in their country's first free elections in a half century.

"If we don't vote, who else would come forward to define the future of Iraq? It's very important to take this step toward democracy," said Leo Bahrieh, 46, who drove with his father, Esbo Bahrieh, 84, from their Redwood City, Calif., home to the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station where an estimated 3,900 expatriate Iraqis are registered to vote.

In the United States, about 10 percent of those believed eligible registered to vote. Nearly 26,000 Iraqi expatriates registered beginning last week to vote in polling places near five U.S. cities.

Around the world — in 14 countries — the sense of jubilation is echoed as Iraqis, many of whom fled the country decades ago to escape Saddam Hussein's authoritarian regime, cast their ballots to select a

275-seat National Assembly that will appoint a new government and draft a permanent constitution.

But as insurgents in Iraq have unleashed an escalated campaign of violence ahead of the Sunday elections in Iraq, for Iraqi expatriates this vote is as much a rejection of that violence as it is a message about their country's future.

"I am voting for security, stability and peace. I want to go back to my hometown, Basra, and there," said Hameed Aliwan, 68, who fled to Jordan 19 months ago to escape the violence.

Aliwan voted at a Jordanian school, where Kurdish women garbed in their red, green and blue — native dress waited alongside Arab men in traditional brown robes and white headaddresses to cast their ballots.

Security was tight at polling stations, which will be open through Sunday.

When voting concludes, all the overseas counts will be sent to the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration's headquarters in Amman, Jordan, which will forward them to Baghdad. The results will be announced several days later.

According to the IOM, of the estimated 1.2 million eligible Iraqis living abroad, less than a quarter, or 280,303, registered to vote — a turnout squeezed by logistics

Absentee turnout

A breakdown of the number of Iraqi expatriates who voted Friday:

Australia: 3,128 (27 percent of 11,806 registered expatriate Iraqis)

Britain: 5,366 (17 percent of 30,961)

Canada: 2,473 (23 percent of 10,957)

Denmark: 4,045 (31 percent of 12,983)

France: 183 (17 percent of 1,041)

Germany: 6,631 (25 percent of 26,416)

Iran: 20,786 (34 percent of 60,908)

Jordan: 9,721 (42 percent of 20,166)

Netherlands: 3,745 (25 percent of 14,723)

Sweden: 9,957 (32 percent of 31,045)

Syria: 5,655 (34 percent of 16,581)

Turkey: 930 (22 percent of 4,187)

United Arab Emirates: 6,154 (49 percent of 12,581)

United States: 5,643 (22 percent of 25,461)

World: 84,429 (30 percent of 280,303)

From the International Organization for Migration via The Associated Press



Iraqis dressed in traditional Kurdish outfits are checked by a security guard as they arrive at a polling station in Sydney, Australia, on Friday.

rather than apathy.

Despite their hopes for the country's future, Iraqis, long ago sobered by the reality of living under a dictatorial regime and the ensuing chaos that gripped the country once Saddam was toppled, were also cautious in their assessment of that future.

"I am not hopeful at all," said Fusun Atici, an ethnic Turk from Kirkuk who voted in Istanbul, Turkey on Friday. "I think this election will only bring ethnic clashes."

In Britain, an estimated 150,000 Iraqis

were eligible to vote, but 30,961 registered.

Expatriates also registered at centers in Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, France and Denmark. In all, 117,000 Iraqis registered in seven European countries, including Turkey — a turnout many said was disappointing.

"It is a shame, for me it is very depressing," said Hashim Ali of the Iraqi Community Association, commenting on the low participation in Britain. "These are great days for Iraqi people. I feel let down by the Iraqi community in the U.K."

Iraqis rush to stock up on supplies

By BUSHRA JUHI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Nightfall approached, the military curfew drew near and Baghdad residents scurried from shop to shop on one of the city's main streets to stock up on food, water and gasoline before Sunday's national election.

Umm Ahmed, a 35-year-old housewife, rushed to a store. Like many Iraqis, she was worried she may not be able to shop in coming days because of curfews and violence. "I am looking for bread," she said, explaining that most of the bakeries near her house are closed.

Glancing down the street toward a bread shop where people were waiting in line, she said she had given up trying to get gas, used by residents not just for cars, but to power generators during Baghdad's frequent outages.

In central Baghdad, the traffic was unusually light Friday afternoon — a few cars driving away from the growing number of American military patrols roaming the streets.

Some supporters of the Commu-



Baghdad residents shop on one of the city's main streets Saturday to stock up on food, water and gasoline before Sunday's national election.

nist Party took advantage of the presence of the American and Iraqi foot patrols to hand out fliers to passing drivers.

But large parts of the Iraqi capital appeared to be on holiday — few pedestrians were on the sidewalks and the shops that were open lacked customers. Store owners waited while the afternoon chatting with each other or standing in front of their shops.

For all the differences in Baghdad this historic week, one thing remained the same — long lines of cars at gas stations. Officials blame the crunch on attacks on pipelines, ambushes of fuel convoys and a crumbling energy infrastructure.

The only shops with customers were grocery stores and bakeries, where dozens of people waited in some lines, complaining of high prices.

"Regrettably, some greedy merchants are making use of the exceptional circumstances to raise prices," said Ahmed al-Saadi, 30.

Near a grocery on a main street in eastern Baghdad, an elderly woman named Umm Ammar said she doubted the violence would be as bad as feared and said, "People are exaggerating things."

Many people blamed the shortages on the government, others attributed them to chaos and widespread fears.

Kurds could claim key posts after vote

The Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq — Kurdish leaders from rival factions in northern Iraq have united in hopes of winning a large bloc of seats in Sunday's National Assembly vote and say they will insist that either the presidency or the prime minister's job goes to a Kurd.

The two top positions in Iraq's interim government are currently held by a Shiite Muslim and a Sunni Arab, the country's two largest communities.

But observers say the presidency — a largely ceremonial post — could go to a Kurd, possibly Jalal Talabani, leader of one of the two major Kurdish groups. And his rival, Massoud Barzani, who heads the Kurdistan Democratic Party, appears to have given his consent.

The two rivals, who have run the Kurdish north in separate fiefdoms the last 14 years, have put aside their differences in favor of a common goal: to ensure their demand for a federal state is enshrined in the constitution that will be drafted by the National Assembly.

The two factions are running a coalition on the same ticket in Sunday's vote for the National As-

sembly. The alliance is made necessary, Kurdish leaders say, to make certain Kurds will have a voice in uncertain times.

"This time we agreed to be on one list in order to guarantee our rights in Baghdad," said Mohammed Khali Shakhawan, an official from Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Kurdish party officials said they will accept nothing less than one of the two top government posts in Baghdad.

"If we are going to be considered full citizens, it is natural to be a president or prime minister, to have a high ranking post," said Sefin Dirazwey, a KDP official.

He said Kurds, who are the United States' closest allies in Iraq, were disappointed with the allocation of posts in the interim government that was formed when the U.S. occupation authority returned sovereignty to Iraq in June. The U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority gave the premiership to a member of Iraq's majority Shiite Muslim community. The presidency went to a Sunni Arab.

Kurdish complaints were met with calls from the Americans to be patient, but officials from the two Kurdish factions said they will pursue one of the top posts this time.

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**Gifts
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Nonprofit group dedicates first memorial

Lest They Be Forgotten hopes to create monuments for every soldier killed in Iraq

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

Lest They Be Forgotten, an organization dedicated to building a memorial for every soldier killed in Iraq, on Friday dedicated its first monument, in honor of an Alabama soldier killed alongside the son of the group's founder.

The ceremony for Sgt. Jason Jordan, who was killed in an ambush outside Tall Afar in July 2003, took place in the city of Elba's Veterans Memorial Park and attracted several hundred mourners, including members of Jordan's 101st Airborne unit from Kentucky.

The display — a helmet on a rifle accompanied by a plaque with Jordan's name — was designed and paid for by the nonprofit group, founded by Florida resident Gregg Garvey, whose son Justin was killed fighting alongside Jordan when the ambush took place.

Garvey said he felt the funeral and memorial services held for his son, although moving, were not enough to honor his son's sacrifice.

So the former construction worker designed a memorial and founded Lest They

Be Forgotten, and decided that Jordan's memorial would be the first dedicated.

"It was a promise I made to my son [after his death], that the first one would be dedicated to Jason," he said. "I collected some dirt from the grave sites [of several unit soldiers] and mixed it in with the concrete so they're all there together. They're all brothers."

Garvey, who worked full-time on the effort for most of the past year, and other group members have raised enough to pay for about 30 of the \$7,500 monuments, and are working to expand fund-raising even further.

They have also designed a flag bearing the words "Lest they be forgotten" to raise money and commemorate fallen troops.

"I'm determined that the flag will become as recognizable to this generation as the POW-MIA flag was to my generation," Garvey said, noting that several veterans organizations have already begun using the symbol.

Plans are in place to dedicate Justin Garvey's memorial this May in Vermont, where he grew up.

For more information, go to:
www.lesttheybeforgotten.org
E-mail: Leo Shane at: shane@ltsb.org



Danny and Sandra Jordan observe the moment of silence during a ceremony Friday at Veterans Memorial Park in Elba, Ala., for their son, Sgt. Jason Jordan, who was killed in Iraq in 2003. Friday's ceremony was the first of many planned by Lest They Be Forgotten, an organization dedicated to building a memorial for every soldier killed in Iraq.

DAVID CANTOR
Courtesy of the
U.S. Army

Services to remember 7 1st ID troops

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — Seven 1st Infantry Division troops who have died this month will be remembered at their home bases in Germany in three services this week.

Five Vilsack-based soldiers were honored at an event Monday in the Rose Barracks chapel. All died Jan. 24 when their Bradley fighting vehicle rolled over into a canal during a sandstorm near

Khan Bani Saad, Iraq, northeast of Baghdad.

As of Saturday, the Department of Defense had not released their names or units. However local media in the States have identified two of them, Viktor Yolkyn and Sgt. Javier Martin. Two more services are scheduled Wednesday. The first, for Sgt. William Kinzer, 27, of the 1st Battalion, 4th Cavalry Regiment, will be at 11 a.m. at the Ledward

Barracks chapel in Schweinfurt. Kinzer was killed Jan. 26, when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his vehicle in Ad Dulayyah, just east of Samarra.

The second, for Staff Sgt. Terrence Balkisson, 25, of the division's headquarters company, is scheduled for 1 p.m. at Leighton Barracks chapel in Würzburg. Balkisson was shot dead in New York on Jan. 9 while home from Iraq on leave.

The Associated Press

As of Friday, at least 1,423 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,087 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is 12 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,285 U.S. military members have died, according to the count. That includes at least 978 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Three soldiers were killed Friday when an explosive hit their patrol in western Baghdad.

■ A soldier was killed Friday by an explosive in southern Baghdad.

■ A soldier was killed Friday by small arms fire in northern Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Marine Cpl. Jonathan S. Beatty, 22, Ottawa, Ill.; died Thurs-

day from hostile action in Babil province, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Pfc. Kevin M. Luna, 26, Oxnard, Calif.; died Thursday in Muqaddiyah, Iraq, from non-combat injuries; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Vilsack, Germany.

■ Army Spc. Taylor J. Burk, 21, Amarillo, Texas; died Wednesday in Baghdad, from an explosive; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Killed Wednesday in a helicopter crash near Rutbah, Iraq, assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base, Hawaii.

■ Marine Staff Sgt. Brian D. Bland, 26, Weston, Wyo.

■ Marine Sgt. Michael W. Finke Jr., 28, Huron, Ohio

■ Marine 1st Lt. Travis J. Fuller, 26, Granville, Mass.

■ Marine Cpl. Timothy M. Gibson, 23, Merrimack, N.H.

■ Marine Cpl. Richard A. Gilbert Jr., 26, Montgomery, Ohio

■ Marine Cpl. Kyle J. Grimes, 21, Northampton, Pa.

■ Marine Cpl. Stephen P. Johnson, 24, Covina, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Fred L. Maciel, 20, Spring, Texas

■ Marine Cpl. Nathaniel K. Moore, 22, Champaign, Ill.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Gael Sainvil, 24, Orange, Fla.

■ Marine Cpl. Nathan A. Schubert, 22, Cherokee, Iowa

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Michael L. Starr Jr., 21, Baltimore.

Dispute over body angers soldier's mother

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The horror was just beginning for Eleanor Dachtler when she received word her only son, Lance Cpl. Nicholas H. Anderson, had been killed during an insurgent attack in Iraq.

Less than 24 hours later, distraught by her ex-husband's plan to bury their son in another state, Dachtler found herself pleading with military officials to bring Anderson's body home to Las Vegas.

But after learning that a little-known military policy favors the older parent in such disputes and that the military had not required her son to have a will before deploying, Dachtler watched helplessly as her son was laid to rest in Ventura, Calif.

"I couldn't believe that this was happening," Dachtler said. "I can't go see him every week, talk to him. I want to go visit his grave and take him flowers."

Officials who deal with casualties say disagreements over a soldier's burial are not uncommon, particularly if there has been a divorce.

"I'm sure if you did some digging, you would find other instances of the situation we had with Lance Cpl. Anderson," said Marine Corps Capt. William Ghilarducci, who assisted Dachtler after her son's death. "That's why this policy is in place."

When Dachtler was first told her son had been killed Nov. 12, she accused his body was being sent to Las Vegas, where Anderson had spent most of his

childhood and had recently graduated from high school.

But Marine Corps officials told Dachtler, 47, that his body was being sent to his father in Southern California.

The Marine Corps determined Dachtler's ex-husband, Albert Anderson, 58, was the primary next of kin authorized to handle the disposition of remains. The law says that without a spouse or child, the responsibility falls to the oldest surviving parent unless sole custody was granted by a court.

"It's a bad situation, and no one was happy with it," said Bryan Driver, spokesman for the Marine Corps Casualty Assistance Branch in Quantico, Va. "The rules are what they are. We had to follow them."

The situation might have been avoided if Lance Cpl. Anderson had filled out a will or designated power of attorney. But the Marine Corps, along with the Army, Navy and Air Force, do not have a will before deploying.

Even though a soldier provides next of kin contact information, absent a specific designation, the military law is used to determine who will be responsible for funeral arrangements.

Still shrouded in grief and a longing for her son, Dachtler has been collecting signatures and working with elected officials to either change the law or compel soldiers to designate someone to make burial decisions for them.

"I don't want to see anyone go through this," Dachtler said.

"I can't go see him every week, talk to him."

Eleanor Dachtler

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newly arrived unit returns to Spangdahlem

150 from 606th Air Control Squadron welcomed home

By RUSS RIZZO
Stars and Stripes

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — Under the fluorescent glow of lights in Air Force hangar 3 Friday night, children chanted "daddy, daddy" as adults waited nervously behind them.

Two men in blue jeans clutched bouquets of flowers. A girl held a neon green sign that read "McGinnis girls" with an arrow pointed to her and her sister. And Katie Brock stood waiting for her husband in a customized pink T-shirt that read, "I Love Kyle."

Then with the piercing sound of a horn, about 150 men and women of the 606th Air Control Squadron filed in, marking the end of their deployment to Iraq and the official start to making up lost time.

"It's the greatest feeling I ever, ever, ever, ever, ever had," Senior Airman Sarah Charles said as she embraced her husband, Jean-Marx, and her 2-year-old daughter, Ariel.

The men and women of the 606th Air Control Squadron came to the 332nd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron downrange — were essentially the eyes and ears of the skies for U.S. operations in Iraq.

If soldiers were bogged down in



PHOTOS BY RUSS RIZZO/Stars and Stripes

Above: Master Sgt. Aaron Poeschew greets his 8-year-old daughter, Julia, in Spangdahlem, Germany, on Friday night as about 150 members of the 606th Air Control Squadron returned from Iraq. **Right:** Senior Airman Sarah Charles hugs her 2-year-old daughter, Ariel, and her husband, Jean-Marx Charles, after returning to Spangdahlem.

the Sunni Triangle and needed air support, it was their job to provide the coordinates to pilots to make that happen. And if a fighter jet needed fuel, it was their job to get a tanker to them.

Most of the air control operations took place at Balad Air Base inside high-tech trailers called operations modules. That's where Staff Sgt. Rickey Walkes and others monitored the skies on screens in front of them and communicated by radio and a secure chat room

to troops throughout the country.

For Walkes, the U.S. operation in Fallujah last fall was as tense as it got. Marines under attack on the ground 80 miles away relied on the men and women in these high-tech trailers to clear the skies and send in fighter jets to deliver firepower.

In a typical scenario, an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle circled the air space above Marines in trouble. So Walkes and his crew would identify the aircraft, direct the controllers to move it out and give the



go-ahead for fighter pilots, providing them with coordinates they used to fire on the enemy.

It all happened in the matter of minutes. And it happened often: about 14 times a day during the Fallujah campaign, Walkes said.

"We were bombing stuff left and right and taking no names," Walkes said.

In four months, the squadron was attacked more than 100 times,

said squadron commander Lt. Col. Scott Fischer. One member of the squadron, Tech. Sgt. David Hogden, was wounded when a mortar shell landed about 20 feet from where he was riding an all-terrain vehicle in Balad, Fischer said.

Asked what was most surprising about her experience in Iraq, Charles, a surveillance technician, said: "All of it made it."

E-mail Russ Rizzo at: rizzo@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Lockheed wins Marine One bid in controversial decision

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The green-and-white presidential helicopter emblazoned with the Stars and Stripes seen lifting off from the White House lawn is an American icon.

But in 2009, when the next president climbs the steps of Marine One and gives that familiar wave, it will be from an aircraft based on a British-Italian design and built with European partners.

On Friday, the Navy announced that a trans-Atlantic tender headed by Lockheed Martin will build the new fleet of presidential helicopters, ending a fierce competition that had both political and international implications.

Saying the president "needs a more survivable helicopter while the nation engages in the global war on terrorism," the Navy, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition, said Lockheed met all the security and technology requirements at the best price.

The \$6.1 billion program to buy 23 high-tech, high-security aircraft is emblematic of the outsourcing of American jobs and the question of how open the U.S. military market is to foreign contractors. And some members of Congress criticized the decision to put the U.S. president in an aircraft that will be made partially overseas.

"It is difficult to understand why we would use U.S. tax dollars to fund the further development of foreign helicopter technology," said House Armed Services Chairman Duncan Hunter, R-Calif.

But New York lawmakers hailed the decision, which will bring a new manufacturing plant to Owego, N.Y., and as many as 750 new jobs. And Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said it was a testament to Lockheed's business leadership.

"The US101 will provide the president of the United States with a state-of-the-art helicopter ... an Oval Office in the sky," said Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., who as first lady who spent time in the current Marine One.

Lockheed's president, Robert J. Stevens, said his team will be working immediately to set up a secure facility in Owego, and an assembly plant in Amarillo, Texas.

Marland-based Lockheed and its European partners waged a major public relations campaign, with the help of political leaders from Britain and Italy. The British government welcomed the decision, saying it would benefit both the United States and Britain. There was no immediate reaction from Italy.

The decision was a blow to Connecticut-based Sikorsky Aircraft, which has built the presidential fleet since 1957 and saw the contract as a point of pride.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn.,

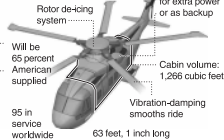
New builder for Marine One

The government announced Friday that Lockheed Martin will build the fleet of helicopters called Marine One when transporting the president. The new, larger aircraft replaces the current model built by Sikorsky, which has been building the fleet since 1957.

US101

Company Lockheed Martin/AugustaWestland
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Cruise speed 172.5 mph
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Note: Drawings are schematic

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SOURCES: Lockheed Martin; Sikorsky

who was at the Sikorsky plant in Stratford, and other Connecticut lawmakers pledged to fight the decision.

"It looks like the U.S. Navy just shot down an American helicopter," said Rep. Bob Simmons, R-Conn. "This deal results in a net loss of American jobs. We're going to over this with a fine-toothed comb."

DeLauro added, "Made in America" should mean something. The Defense Department has some explaining to do."

The \$6.1 billion program includes \$2.5 billion for development and \$3.6 billion to buy the aircraft. Lockheed will receive an initial installment of \$1.6 billion.

The contract may give the winner a potential edge when the Pentagon looks to replace hundreds of search and rescue helicopters in coming years. It also gives Lockheed the bragging rights to one of the most photographed helicopters in the world: the president's green-and-white aircraft often shown as it lifts off from the South Lawn of the White House.

Lockheed's winning entry, the US101, is based on a British-Italian AugustaWestland aircraft, now owned by Finmeccanica.

The helicopter has several key components, including the main transmission and rotor blades, that will be built overseas. Sikorsky, a unit of United Tech-

nologies Corp., and its backers argued that the VH-92 Super Hawk's all-American parts provided greater security than a helicopter built in part in other countries.

But the Navy went with the longer, wider, more powerful aircraft, with its three engines, built by General Electric in Lynn, Mass. Sikorsky's Super Hawk has two engines.

Plans to replace the Marine Corps' aging presidential squadron took on greater importance after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Last year the White House pressed for an expedited bidding process because of security concerns, but Navy officials later delayed a decision, saying they needed about a year to get more information.

The companies submitted bids last February, and have waged a massive public relations campaign, complete with billboards, demonstration flights, ads and radio commercials.

Friday's loss is the second major defeat for Sikorsky in a little less than a year. Last February the Pentagon canceled the \$39 billion Comanche helicopter program, which was a joint venture with Boeing Helicopters.

The company still builds one of the military's workhorse helicopters, the Black Hawk, which is being used broadly in the Iraq war. The Pentagon is expected to order hundreds more in coming years to replace current models.

IN THE WORLD



Actress Sharon Stone stands up to pledge \$10,000 for the fight against malaria Friday during the plenary "Funding the War on Poverty" at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Sharon Stone's impromptu fund-raiser nets \$1 million

The Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland — Sharon Stone raised \$1 million in five minutes Friday for mosquito nets in Tanzania, turning a panel on African poverty into an impromptu fund-raiser.

After an hour into the panel, when a U.N. official said 150,000 African children were dying of malaria every month because they didn't have bed nets, Stone suddenly rose from her seat in the audience.

"I'd like to offer \$10,000 to help you buy some bed nets today," Stone told Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa, who was on the panel

along with Microsoft founder Bill Gates and others.

Stone then implored others in the hall — packed with several hundred well-heeled executives and political leaders attending the World Economic Forum — to reach into their pockets.

Immediately an unidentified man promised \$50,000. Around 30 others quickly followed, and within five minutes, Stone had raised \$1 million, said Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., the Senate leader who moderated the panel discussion on how rich nations can best fund the war on poverty.

"How many bed nets will a million dollars buy?" he asked the crowd, which erupted into applause.

Meeting sets groundwork for tsunami-alert system

Military declares Feb. 15 deadline to leave Sri Lanka

By JOSEPH COLEMAN

The Associated Press

PHUKET, Thailand — Tsunami-ravaged nations at a conference in Thailand failed to resolve differences over which one should host a disaster warning center Saturday, and instead decided to set up smaller facilities in several countries to help prevent future catastrophes.

The two-day meeting at the ravaged resort island of Phuket focused on the creation of a tsunami warning system for the Indian Ocean, which experts say would have saved many of the 145,000 to 178,000 lives lost across 11 countries on Dec. 26.

In Sri Lanka, where more than 30,000 died, the U.S. military said it would withdraw all troops involved in tsunami relief there by Feb. 15, after earlier announcing a gradual pullout from Indonesia, where the death toll is more than 90,000.

In worst-hit northern Sumatra, survivors were jolted by the latest of dozens of moderate aftershocks since the massive earthquake that caused the tsunami. No damage or injuries were reported.

On the damage resort island of Phuket, delegates struggled over where to base a center that would collect seismic and oceanographic data from nations on the Indian Ocean's rim, analyze it and issue alerts to coastal areas in danger.

Thailand pushed hard to make Bangkok-based disaster prevention center the hub, but faced opposition from India and Indonesia.

In the end, delegates eager to maintain broad support for the warning system and distribute responsibilities chose a decentralized network. Some officials argued that such a set-up would

"It would not be entirely effective to have a single center do so many things."

Margareta Wahlstrom
U.N. representative

make better use of the capabilities in the region.

"It would not be entirely effective to have a single center do so many things," said Margareta Wahlstrom, special envoy of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. She added that there are "a number of institutions" around the Indian Ocean that could serve as smaller regional centers.

The two-day meeting that ended Saturday gathered delegates from 57 countries and agencies to hash out how to create a network that would quickly warn nations of coming tsunamis so coastal areas could evacuate. It followed a broader meeting in Japan earlier this month.

A tsunami-warning system has opened for decades in the Pacific Ocean, where a center in Hawaii issues alerts to 26 nations. An Indian Ocean warning system is expected to be in place within 18 months.

The broad plan has been to help individual nations build up their tsunami- and earthquake-detection equipment and communication networks.

Experts say effective coordination of an early warning system is one of the biggest challenges to preventing future disasters. The declaration issued at the end of the Phuket meeting, however, was short on details about how the system would be put in place or operated.

There were some concerns a decentralized system could be unreliable, leading to high rates of false alarms that can trigger costly and unnecessary evacuations and sap confidence in the system.

"The impact of false alarms can be serious," said Jean-Michel Rainero, a delegate from the U.N. World Meteorological Organization.

Others argued the system would be more airtight if several regional centers overlapped, meaning a breakdown in one of them would not leave countries vulnerable.

Delegates agreed the United Nations should take the lead in developing the network. The United States, Germany and Japan have offered to help with advanced tsunami-detection technologies.

EU looks to settle refugee issue

The Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG — European Union countries were reluctant Saturday to agree to calls from the United Nations to accept more refugees for permanent resettlement, arguing money would be better spent on helping them to return home.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Rued Lubbers urged EU justice and interior ministers meeting here to draft a joint resettlement policy for refugees that would stipulate for relocating the refugees evenly across the EU.

"Although refugee numbers worldwide are going down, there are still many long-lasting refugee situations," Lubbers told the ministers.

He said a joint resettlement program would offer a solution for those "who can neither return home or settle permanently in their first country of refuge." Lubbers said the 25-nation EU should follow the lead of immigrant countries like the United States,

Canada and New Zealand, which together offered to take in 100,000 refugees for resettlement last year.

Only six EU countries currently have resettlement programs, including Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Britain, Finland and the Netherlands.

Immigration and asylum is a politically sensitive and touchy issue in the EU, and getting agreement on a joint resettlement policy — which would include setting quotas — will be tough.

The EU ministers agreed last year to set up a common asylum and immigration policy by 2010.

Many EU countries also fear that accepting more refugees will pose integration problems.

The EU governments have already agreed to improve the integration of immigrants in the wake of ethnic tensions in several EU nations.

Tensions with immigrant communities recently came to a head in the Netherlands, where Theo van Gogh, a Dutch filmmaker whose last movie was critical of Islam, was slain on Nov. 2.

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Constitution, you say?

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Nine out of 10 European Union citizens know little or nothing about the Constitution that's expected to become the corner-

stone of their political life, according to an EU study released Friday.

Even though the blueprint has been approved by the European Parliament, only 11 percent of citizens feel "they global-

ly know the content of the constitution," 56 percent say they know "little" on the subject and 33 percent declare they have never heard of it, according to the Eurobarometer study.

From The Associated Press



Cuban students march in the streets Old Havana on Friday as the country celebrates the 152nd birthday of national hero Jose Marti. U.S. students are now studying in Cuba, under tighter U.S. regulations.

U.S. students get taste of Cuba

The Associated Press

HAVANA — When Veronica Sanchez's parents found out she was going to Cuba for 10 weeks, they "freaked out" and worried she would become a communist, the 19-year-old Mexican-American student said.

"My dad really has it in his head that I'm never going to go back home," she said. "He thinks I'm going to love it here."

Worried parents, steep prices and a stricter U.S. travel ban were among the obstacles Sanchez and nine other University of California, Davis, students had to overcome to become one of the first groups of Americans to travel to Cuba under new, restrictive U.S. regulations.

The rules, implemented last summer by the administration of U.S. President Bush, require all study trips to last at least 10 weeks — purportedly to cut down on tourism under academic pretenses and to make sure students experience more than just white-sand beaches and salsa concerts.

But critics say the purpose of the changes is to make it harder for Americans to get to Cuba, and that the vast majority of academic groups that traveled there focused on seeing Fidel Castro's socialist system firsthand — not on visiting the island's beaches.

The UC Davis students, who arrived Jan. 2, each had to pay

\$10,000. The students said the longer time-period allows them to see past the Cuban government propaganda and get a true sense of life on the island.

Cuban-Americans were a vital electoral bloc courted by Bush in this year's campaign for Florida.

The students will study topics including race and gender issues, the Cuban political structure, housing, music, baseball and community health. Original recommendations in a report issued last year by the U.S. Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba complained that most trips by American students are heavily controlled by Cuban state security officials and allow only limited interaction with average Cubans.

Iran, Afghan ties

DO GHARUN, Iran — Iran's president said Thursday that stability in U.S.-battered Afghanistan was linked to the situation in his own country, drawing a parallel between the fates of the two neighbors despite their contrasting relations with the United States.

Mohammad Khatami and Afghan President Hamid Karzai stressed their shared interests at a ceremony on Iran's eastern frontier after inaugurating a revamped road and power line from Iran to the western Afghan city of Herat.

"We want a stable, dignified Afghanistan which makes progress, and I believe our security is Afghanistan's security," Khatami said before about 70 guests in the Iranian customs house on the border. "Our stability and Afghanistan's stability are linked. Our progress and development is linked to Afghanistan's development."

Iran is a vital partner for Afghanistan as it emerges from more than 20 years of fighting. Karzai has vowed to revive historic trade routes to drum up customs revenues and build relationships with neighbors who stoked conflict in Afghanistan in the past.

Iranian officials stress the need for the countries to cooperate to root out Afghanistan's burgeoning drug industry.

Free marijuana seeds

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — A Dutch magazine was including an unusual freebie with its latest issue — two marijuana seeds in a small plastic bag.

Nieuwe Revu Editor-in-Chief Mark Koster said the move was a publicity stunt accompanying the Jan. 26 issue, which advocates legalizing marijuana and other banned substances.

Although Holland is famous for tolerating the sale of small

amounts of marijuana and hashish in coffee shops, both are technically illegal and the government prosecutes possession of more than several grams.

"We're saying, stop the war on drugs, which costs a fortune and there are no results," Koster said.

Quake rattles Spain

MADRID, Spain — An earthquake measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale shook southeast Spain on Saturday, causing minor damage but no injuries, officials said.

The quake's epicenter was near the village of Bullas in Murcia province and the tremor was felt in a total of six provinces, the National Geographic Institute said.

In Bullas, the quake lasted 6 to 8 seconds and left a crack in the facade of a building, police chief Francisco Espin said.

The quake was also felt in the provinces of Almeria, Jaen, Granada, Albacete and Ciudad Real, the institute said.

Residents of the Lorca area of Murcia said the quake was powerful and people ran out into the street as the tremor knocked over furniture in their homes, the news agency Efe reported.

Mobster found dead

ROME — A reputed top aide to Italy's No. 1 fugitive Mafia boss was found dead hanging from a noose in his prison cell Friday, three days after he was rounded up in a police sweep, Italian news reports said.

Francesco Pastoia's death appeared to be a suicide, Italian news agency ANSA said. Officials at Modena prison would only say that an investigation into Pastoia's death was under way.

Pastoia was one of 46 suspects arrested on Tuesday as authorities in Sicily try to break what they say is a four-decades-old ring of support to help keep Bernardo Provenzano on the run.

From wire reports

Vintners in France fight to distill extra wine

The Associated Press

PARIS — It would not quite be pouring good wine down the drain, but close.

Stuck with hundreds of millions of bottles they can't sell in a toughening global market, French vintners want to distill some of France's wine lake into industrial-use alcohol, which could include use as fuel in cars.

It wouldn't just be plunk: four-fifths of the 66 million gallons wine makers hope to recycle is considered good stuff.

Such destruction would be unprecedented for "appellation" wines that carry France's AOC seal of origin and quality. Although nearly 71.3 million gallons were distilled into alcohol in 2002, that was second-rate table wine. This time, 267 million bottles of AOC wines would be boiled down in stills if vintners get their way.



Two winegrowers from Sainte-Cecile-Les-Vignes, southern France, carry a fake coffin reading "Here lies the last vinegrower" in Avignon, France, in this Dec. 8 photo. Stuck with hundreds of millions of bottles they can't sell in a toughening global market, French vintners want to distill some of France's wine lake into industrial-use alcohol.

"Generally, distillation is for the worst products," said Robert Beynat, chief executive of the Vinexpo international wine fair.

That vintners are clamoring to destroy stocks of wine that would nicely accompany a meal underscores their difficulties.

The average Frenchman still downs 13.2 gallons of wine a year — but that is half as much as in 1961. A study for Vinexpo pub-

lished Thursday predicted that the United States will overtake France as the leading overall wine consumer by 2008 — although the French would still lead on a per capita basis.

Pressured by Californian Chardonnays and other vintages from the new world, French wine exports fell by 6.6 percent in volume and 6.1 percent in value in the first 11 months of 2004.



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IN THE STATES



Grandfather Mountain, near Linville, N.C., is shown coated with a light trace of snow and a thick coat of ice, while Mount Mitchell appears above the clouds in the distance. Atlanta also was hit hard with ice.

Freezing rain, sleet mess with travel in Southeast

BY ELIOTT C. MCLAUGHLIN

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Freezing rain and sleet spread sheets of ice across parts of the Southeast on Saturday, shutting down sections of every interstate highway in the metro Atlanta area and canceling hundreds of airline flights.

Two traffic deaths appeared to be linked to the slippery pavement, said Trooper First Class Larry Schnall of the Georgia State Patrol.

Ice was a quarter-inch thick on downtown Atlanta streets as a storm system spread snow, freezing rain and sleet from the Midwest into Georgia and the Carolinas.

South Carolina police warned of ice forming on bridges and

North Carolina's Highway Patrol reported numerous accidents.

Throughout the Atlanta metropolitan area, wrecks led police to shut down sections of Interstates 85, 20, 75 and 285 and some other highways, said state Department of Transportation spokeswoman Karlene Barron.

Most morning flights were canceled at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport as crews worked to sand and salt runways and access roads, said airport spokeswoman Felicia Browder.

AirTran canceled 73 flights for the day, according to a news release. Delta was working to keep its aircraft outside the storm-affected areas, said spokesman Anthony Black.

Browder said most travelers

were aware of the approaching inclement weather, so few people are stranded at the airport.

"The airport is quiet, but we are open," she said. In South Carolina, Delta, Northwest Airlines, U.S. Airways, and others canceled flights from Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport and from Columbia Metropolitan Airport.

All of northern Georgia was under a winter storm warning and as much as a half-inch of ice was possible from Athens to Gainesville, the National Weather Service said.

The ice also accumulated on power lines and tree limbs, and more than 52,000 homes and businesses were blacked out around Georgia, according to Georgia Power and the Georgia Electric Membership Corp.

Kid's drug-money find terrifies area parents

BY JAMIE STENGLE

The Associated Press

DALLAS — A convenience store owner in one of Dallas' poorest neighborhoods was amazed when she started seeing children from the elementary school across the street buying candy and chips with \$100 bills.

"One boy came in here with a \$100 bill and asked for change," Charlene Williams said of an incident on Saturday. When she told the boy he needed to be careful with his "mama's money," he told her: "This ain't my mama's money. This is my money."

It turned out that a youngster had apparently found tens of thousands of dollars in suspected drug money and was handing it out to others.

Soon, though, some men came looking for the money, spreading fear through the South Dallas neighborhood.

Over the past few days, parents have told police that men had come to their doors, threatening their children and demanding their money back. The elementary school was so rife with rumors and threats of a drive-by shooting that it was locked down for an hour on Wednesday, and about 200 of the 600 children stayed home the next day.

On Thursday night, a man was

arrested and accused of abducting and beating a 12-year-old boy who had some of the money. The boy was later returned home.

Before he was jailed on \$5 million bail, the suspect, 23-year-old Sylvestre Adams, told KDFW-TV that he never threatened anyone and that the money had been stolen from him. He disputed it was drug money, as police suspect.

"I'm not no kidnapper," he said. "I work."

The boy's mother told The Dallas Morning News that her son had spent part of the money and given away the rest. She said she assured Adams that she would pay him back in installments.

"I don't know what else to do," she told the newspaper, speaking in a condition of anonymity. "These people already know where I stay."

Lt. Jan Easterling, a police spokeswoman, said Thursday that detectives believe the youngsters may have found anywhere from \$30,000 to \$100,000.

On Friday, investigators said were still trying to determine who found the money, where and exactly how much. There were no additional suspects, and none of the children had been charged with a crime.

"Definitely people are saying they're afraid," Easterling said. "They're afraid for their kids."

He's crazy for you, but not everyone is flattered

The Associated Press

SHELBYBURNE, Vt. — A straight-jacketed "Crazy for You" teddy bear has drawn rebukes from the governor, mental health advocates and human rights groups — but it's a hit among shoppers.

The \$69.95 bear, which is accompanied by commitment papers, is being well despite complaints that it insults and stigmatizes those with mental illness.

Vermont Teddy Bear Co. President Elisabeth Robert says the bear is meant as a funny Valentine's Day greeting and has been popular among customers.

"We made a very difficult decision not to withdraw it from the market," she said. "I listened to customers, from a lot of feedback from our employees. These people are Vermonters who really don't like to be told what to do." Mental health advocates have

called for the company to stop selling the bear, calling it "tasteless" and saying it stigmatized the mentally ill. Gov. Jim Douglas called the bear insensitive and inappropriate.

Robert said the company had planned the bear as a one-time offering for Valentine's Day, and that it was continuing to sell the bear until it is sold out.

She said the company is "truly sorry if we hurt anybody with this bear" but added that freedom of expression was at stake.

She said the bear got "the highest favorability rating" from customers and that she consulted with the Vermont Teddy Bear board of directors and radio stations that advertise the bear before deciding to keep it.

"We're not in a position to be told what we can and cannot sell," she said.



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Terror scenarios of the 1970s similar to attacks today

BY FRANK BASS AND
RANDY HERSHAFT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Car bombs are set along one of New York City's busiest streets, timed to explode as the Israeli prime minister arrives. A tipster warns that FBI agents questioning suspected extremists in Chicago are in danger. Another informant claims terrorists are planning attacks on Los Angeles synagogues.

It sounds like the "threat matrix," the Bush administration's weekly summary of potential attacks.

But these threats were compiled in weekly CIA reports more than 30 years ago for the Cabinet Committee to Combat Terrorism, a Nixon-era task force created after the killings of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

"The scenarios were there in the early 1970s," said Brian Jenkins, a senior Rand Corp. adviser who wrote one of the earliest re-

ports on the long-term future of terrorism. "The scenarios are still here in the early 21st century."

The Associated Press reported Sunday that declassified documents it obtained show the task force envisioned in the 1970s many of the same terror threats that would greet President Bush decades later.

Intelligence reports from the FBI and CIA that were sent to the Cabinet panel back then show officials feared a terror attack would reach America's shores, perhaps carried out by Palestinian extremists.

"Although terrorist activities have taken place primarily in Europe and the Middle East, rumors and unconfirmed reports indicate that a Palestinian cell dedicated to violence is in place in the U.S. and allegedly is plotting with unnamed American extremist groups, some spectacular acts against American nationals and/or businesses," said one threat assessment compiled by the panel in fall 1972.

"These acts could be in the form of a bazooka or a suitcase rocket-launched attack against aircraft landing, loading or waiting to take off; a massacre at an airport similar to what experienced at Lod Airport, Tel Aviv, or the hijacking of an aircraft for the purpose of destroying it and its passengers if demands for the release of Arab prisoners are not met," the report said.

In the years after Munich, secret weekly situation reports compiled by the CIA show counter-intelligence officials worried about: ■ A plot to attack an Israeli airliner on the ground in New York City with submachine guns and rockets. The FBI source reported that weapons were being held by Libyan or Iraqi diplomats, and that an attack would probably occur during the Passover season.

■ A plan by Black September to sink a Miami-based cruise ship with 400 U.S. passengers en route to Israel to celebrate the Jewish high holy days.

Anticipating terrorist attacks is not new

Declassified documents from the Nixon era reveal that the Cabinet Committee to Combat Terrorism foresaw many of the terrorist scenarios the United States is dealing with 32 years later.

Some perceived threats from 1973-74

TARGET	DATE RECEIVED	PLACE	THREAT
FBI personnel	United States	Chicago	Aircraft PLO sympathizers were compiling names of FBI agents for violent measures
Cruise ship	August 1973	Mediterranean Sea	Black September group planned to sink a ship bound for Israel in September 1973
Greek Orthodox churches	Detroit		Greek Orthodox pastor threatened with assassination if he didn't influence Greece to release Black September terrorists; Greek Orthodox buildings also threatened

SOURCE: CIA

■ A threatened murder of a Greek Orthodox minister in Detroit if he didn't influence the Athens government to release terrorists held in Greek jails.

■ A potential assassination of former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, who was visiting the University of Utah.

None of those four threatened attacks took place.

The panel, which folded in 1977 after five years of work, used sources from many law enforcement and intelligence agencies, including the FBI and CIA, to track investigations of terrorist activities.

Death of serial killer delayed at last minute

The Associated Press

SOMERS, Conn. — New England's first execution in 45 years was abruptly put on hold early Saturday after a federal judge rescinded the serial killer's attorney, saying he was "terribly, terribly wrong" for trying to help end his client's life.

Michael Ross — who has asked to die and has dropped all appeals — was to be put to death by injection early Saturday. But with an hour to spare, state officials rescheduled the execution for Monday at the request of Ross' lawyer, T.R. Paulding.

"The request made by Mr. Paulding today is appropriate and we have no choice but to honor it," Chief State's Attorney Christopher Morano said.

Paulding said he needed to address a possible conflict of interest. Ross, 45, hired him last year to help expedite his execution.

Ross, an Ivy League graduate who terrorized eastern Connecticut and New York in the early 1980s, has confessed to eight murders.

Family members of his victims said they were shocked by the turn of events. "He's guilty. He wants to die. So if he isn't executed, what would you execute?" said Lan Manh Tu, whose sister, Dzong Ngoc Tu, was Ross' first known victim.

Although Ross has said he doesn't want to die, he decided last



Michael Ross

year to drop his appeals to spare the victims' families additional agony. His father and state public defenders, however, took up his appeals, fighting against his will to save his life.

On Friday, state officials believed they had cleared the last hurdle in the case, when the Supreme Court rejected pleas by Ross' father to spare his son's life. But then Paulding asked for the delay, disrupting execution plans at the last moment.

Earlier this year, Paulding had been reprimanded by U.S. District Judge Robert Chatigny, who threatened to strip him of his law license, according to court documents released by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Paulding would not say what he needed to consider this week, although he noted that his client did not ask for the delay.

"I feel that it is imperative I take the appropriate steps," Paulding said.

The state has to execute Ross by 11:59 p.m. Monday or its death warrant expires.

Democrats battle to be Dean alternative in DNC elections

BY WILL LESTER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats competing to lead their national party are battling for the role of "the anti-Dean," the alternative candidate to front-runner Howard Dean.

The field could be narrowed in next few days, as state party chairs and organized labor offer their views on the race.

With Democrats out of power in the White House, Senate and House, the Democratic Party's leadership role is especially important.

Few disagree that Dean, the former Vermont governor who was presidential front-runner for the Democrats through 2003, has surged into the lead with about three-dozen endorsements from Democratic National Committee members.

"Governor Dean has a lot of support and is picking up a lot of speed," said veteran DNC member Donna Brazile. "But there are a lot of us who are still undecided."

The candidates for Democratic chair are Dean, former Texas Rep. Martin Frost, Democratic activists Donnie Fowler and Simon Rosenberg, former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, former Indiana Rep. Tim Roemer and former Ohio state chair David Leand.

The DNC election is set for Feb. 12.



Howard Dean

Dean has been saying the kinds of things Democrats want to hear, talking about running campaigns in every state and helping build local and state parties.

But some Democrats worry the Northeasterner's high profile and sometimes sharp tongue are not what the party needs to expand its base to regions like the South and Midwest.

"Does the party want the type of leadership that will focus on organization and can go into any state and win elections?" said Frost, considered Dean's strongest opponent by some.

"Or do they want someone who will be a high-profile media personality?"

The candidates are invited to

New York City this weekend for the last regional candidate forum. On Sunday and Monday, state party leaders will discuss whom they want to endorse.

Early next week, the AFL-CIO could decide whether to endorse one of the candidates.

Dean, Frost, Fowler and Rosenberg have all been talking about their chances to gain support from these groups, but it's far from clear whether either the state chairs or labor will settle on one candidate.

■ Frost points to his record as head of the Democrats' congressional campaign committee in 1996 and 1998, raising \$80 million and helping House Democrats gain ground on Republicans.

■ Rosenberg notes his experience running campaigns in more than a dozen states over several campaigns helps him understand what state chairs or labor need to build a successful party.

■ Roemer notes his background in national security as a member of the Sept. 11 commission and his ability to appeal to voters in all states.

■ Webb says his experience as a mayor would help him connect to local Democratic officials.

■ Leland points to his ties in Ohio, the critical state in the 2004 presidential election.



MAYO CLINIC HANDOUT VIA SCIENCE MAGAZINE/SHS

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic attached sensors to a group of patients in order to determine why some couch potatoes are lean. Their results suggested that even among those with non-existent exercise habits, those patients who are lean managed to move around enough each day to burn a few hundred more calories than their obese counterparts.

Researchers: Some couch potatoes fidget their way to leanness

BY LEE BOWMAN

Scriptures Howard News Service

We all know them, those frustratingly lean machines who eat as much or more fattening stuff than we do, never deliberately exercise, and yet don't put on the pounds.

Now, an elaborate new study by researchers at the Mayo Clinic helps explain, at least in part, how the metabolisms of seemingly identical couch potatoes with the same lifestyles can be so different.

It turns out that obese couch potatoes sit still, on average, 150 minutes more each day than lean couch potatoes, who despite equally sedentary jobs and non-existent exercise habits, manage to walk, play, fidget and generally move around enough each day to burn about 350 calories more than the obese couch denizens do.

The researchers, who report their findings Friday in the journal *Science*, call this phenomena "non-exercise activity thermogenesis" (NEAT for short) and have spent nearly a decade designing the instruments and techniques to capture a person's every move.

"Our patients have told us for years that they have low metabolism, and as caregivers, we have never quite understood what that means, until today," said Dr. James Levine, an endocrinologist at the Rochester, Minn., clinic and lead author of the study.

"The answer is that they have low NEAT, which means they

have a biological need to sit more. A person can expend calories either by going to the gym, or through everyday activities. Our study shows that the calories that people burn in their everyday activities are far, far more important in obesity than we previously imagined."

Levine's team laid the groundwork for the current study with another *Science* report six years ago, when they noted that a group of equally overfed volunteers gained different amounts of weight and suggested that the difference was in how they expended energy outside formal exercise.

The next step was to come up with a way to measure the energy used by every toe tap and calculate the calorie burn differences. Central to the effort was the Physical Activity Monitoring System, a movement-monitoring system that borrows technology from fighter-jet control panels.

Movement sensors were embedded in specially designed underwear worn by 20 volunteers 24 hours a day — minus a 15-minute-a-day shower and underwear change break that was counted as "standing."

Levine conceded that the instrument package "appears slightly bizarre as it gives us a covert window into people's energetics and every activity in a completely unthreatening way. But because of it, we have a window into people's activity life that no one's ever had before."

Legislators may cook up a way to grade kids' BMI

BY MICHAEL HILL

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Kids' report cards could include reading, writing and weigh-ins, if a state lawmaker gets his way.

A bill being introduced by Assemblyman Felix Ortiz would require schools to annually provide parents information on their child's weight along with their grades. The brief health reports, which could also be sent alongside report cards, would show where kids stand relative to others on the body-mass index, or BMI, a height-to-weight ratio used to define underweight, overweight or obese people.

Ortiz — who has carved a niche for himself as a legislative fat fighter with proposals like taxing junk food — claims the expanded report card would spotlight potential health problems parents might overlook.

"I don't believe we should continue to take things for granted," said the Brooklyn Democrat. "I don't believe we should continue to say, 'Well, parents should know.'"

The proposal comes as public officials around the nation explore creative ways to deal with the alarming trend in childhood obesity.

Nine million school children nationwide are overweight, three times the number in 1980, according to one recent study. Health care professionals generally



Fourth-grader Kane Cameron, right, takes his lunch at Waterfront School in Buffalo, N.Y. A bill being introduced by Assemblyman Felix Ortiz would require schools to annually provide parents information on their child's weight along with their grades.

More nation stories on Page 18

blame the increase on junk food, excessive TV watching and the decline of the sit-down family meal.

Statehouses have cooked up a bunch of programs and legislative proposals designed to raise weight consciousness.

The New York BMI proposal is similar to a 2003 Arkansas law which resulted in the release of

the first annual BMI reports to parents last June. A Texas lawmaker introduced a separate BMI measure this month.

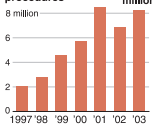
California banned soft drink sales at elementary and junior high schools and some 20 states restrict students' access to junk food until after lunch.

In New York, Gov. George Pataki has enlisted former Olympic swimmer Janet Evans and Philadelphia Flyers goalie Robert Esche to help promote the state's "Active-8 Kids" healthy lifestyle campaign.

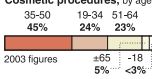
Taxing cosmetic nips and tucks

In September, New Jersey became the first and only state to tax cosmetic surgery. The tax is projected to bring in \$25 million a year. Some health officials say this law is a "dangerous precedent."

Increase of surgical and nonsurgical cosmetic procedures*



Cosmetic procedures, by age



* Nonsurgical cosmetic procedures include laser hair removal, skin resurfacing and Botox and collagen treatments

SOURCE: American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery

Botox, tummy tucks may get 'vanity tax'

BY REBECCA COOK

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Nip, tuck and ... tax? Lawmakers trying to plump up the bottom line are considering a "vanity tax" on cosmetic surgery and Botox injections in Washington, Illinois and other states.

Plastic surgeons and their patients say the idea is just plain ugly.

"It makes no sense. Where does it stop — massages, facials, teeth cleanings?" asked Karen Wakefield, 51, who has had a nose job, dermabrasion, liposuction, tummy tuck and breast lift — plus a little Botox here and there.

"Even having a baby is elective surgery," added Wakefield, an event planner in Woodinville, Wash. "Why not tax that, too?"

The Washington state senator who proposed the tax said she has never gone under the knife for beauty, but wouldn't rule it out.

"I, too, look in the mirror and say to myself, 'I look like my mother,'" said Seattle Democrat Karen Keiser, 57. But she thinks cosmetic surgery patients can afford the state's 6.5 percent

sales tax. She wants to earmark the money for poor children's health insurance.

"We could do Botox-for-babies parties. It might be the new thing," Keiser said. "Anyone who can afford the money for cosmetic procedures, I don't think they would be deterred by a little sales tax. You pay it on your lipstick."

The tax would not apply to reconstructive surgery for, say, burn victims or women who have undergone mastectomies.

In September, New Jersey became the first and so far the only state to tax plastic surgery, at 6 percent. The tax is projected to bring in \$25 million a year.

In Illinois, the state comptroller has proposed a 6 percent tax on cosmetic surgery to create a stem cell research institute. If the Legislature approves, the question could be put to the voters in 2006.

In California, the very capital of cosmetic surgery, such procedures are tax-free. The cosmetic surgery tax is a cousin to the "sin taxes" many states slap on drinking, smoking and gambling during tough budget times.

Stadium in the pink

ME PORTLAND — The agency that maintains the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' stadium has filed a lawsuit against a Maine seat manufacturer, claiming that shoddy craftsmanship caused the stadium's red seats to turn pink.

In the lawsuit, the Tampa Sports Authority says the original red seats, designed to match the team's uniforms, have faded to an "unsightly pink" and that the paint on the seat's stanchions has bubbled and peeled.

The suit says that Hussey Seating Co. of North Berwick last year promised to replace the seats before the start of the 2005 football season. But Hussey officials told the authority earlier this month that it could not meet the deadline.

eBay buyer beware

CA SACRAMENTO — A man is accused of selling almost \$100,000 worth of Rolex watches and professional sports tickets on the Web site eBay, but never delivering the goods.

Gilbert Vartanian was arrested Thursday in the Sacramento suburb of Fremont on 12 counts of mail fraud.

Vartanian is accused of defrauding more than 10 victims of \$93,324.52 between January 2001 and June 2004. He maintained at least three eBay accounts and more than a dozen user names, according to a federal grand jury indictment.

The victims believed they were buying Rolexes and tickets to the New York Knicks, Pittsburgh Steelers, New England Patriots, New York Giants, Green Bay Packers, Philadelphia 76ers and the New York Jets, and for boxing and auto racing events.

Dumping sparks lawsuit

KY PIKEVILLE — Environmentalists have sued the federal government in an attempt to stop coal mining companies from looting off the tops of mountains and dumping the rocks and dirt into valleys.

The lawsuit seeks to stop the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from issuing permits for the dumping, which environmentalists claim will destroy Kentucky's streams.

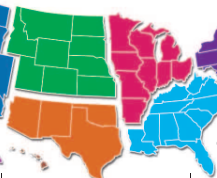
"This is an absurd and outrageous abuse of their power and neglect of their duty to protect the nation's waterways," said Teri Blanton, a member of Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, one of three groups that filed the suit Thursday in Lexington.

The mining industry has increasingly relied on mountaintop removal to expose coal seams because it's a quick and efficient process.

Parade protesters walk

CO DENVER — Never mind. Three days after firmly vowing to prosecute all the approximately 230 remaining cases against Columbus Day parade protesters, City Attorney Cole Finnegan has announced that he will instead dismiss them.

Finnegan's announcement cited a string of recent judicial rulings in the protesters' favor, plus the acquittal of eight protest organizers who stood trial last week for blocking the Oct. 9 parade.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

The Columbus Day parade has been a lightning rod for controversy for more than a decade. American Indian Movement activists arrested for blocking the 1991 parade were acquitted at a 1992 trial, and the parade was then shelved until 2000.

Protests at the 2000 parade led to 139 more arrests; all those defendants saw their cases dismissed a few months later. More than 240 people were arrested at the event last year, for blocking the parade's progress.

The protesters have said they acted out of a moral duty to stop what they see as an act of ethnic intimidation, because they see the event as a celebration of a historical figure they blame for the genocide and oppression of millions.

Sheriffs snub smokers

FL TAMPA — Smokers, put down that nicotine stick and take note: If you want to be a cop in Tampa Bay, you might want to kick the habit.

Smokers already are shunned from restaurants, malls and movie theaters. Now the sheriffs in Hillsborough and Pasco counties say they will ban cigarettes and other tobacco products from the mouths and lungs of their forces.

Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee and Pasco County Sheriff Bob White won't hire people who are smokers, cigar users or tobacco chewers, even if they only indulge when off-duty. Sworn depu-

ties already on the force will be encouraged to toss their Marlboros and Camels whenever on duty and in public.

In Pasco, the Sheriff's Office will only hire applicants who do not smoke or use any tobacco products "in any way, either on or off duty" and have not used tobacco in the previous six months. The policy, which took effect last week, won't apply to current employees, but spokesman Doug Tobin said, "We believe all employees could benefit by participating."

ATV driver rams officer

NH PELHAM — Police are expanding their search for a scotflaw ATV driver who ran down a police lieutenant, sending him flying into the air.

Lt. Joseph Roark, who suffered a minor shoulder injury in Monday's incident, said investigators hope to get leads that will lead them to the driver and two companions.

Police say they are working with neighboring departments to identify the three, who wore helmets, face plates and full body suits.

Error fuels gas deal

NE OMAHA — A misplaced decimal point on a gas station's surprisingly good deal on gas, and fueled some threats of violence.

Carolyn Folsom, who occasionally helps her brother and father run the self-service Shell station, said she goofed Wednesday when entering prices into the computer that runs the fuel tanks. A gallon of regular, unleaded gasoline was supposed to sell for \$1.89 but ended up costing only 18 cents.

Folsom said about 500 gallons of gas were sold during the several hours the price was down, costing the business about \$1,000. The station does not have an attendant and the only way to pay is at the pump, so the mistake went unnoticed for hours.

A fuel truck driver who came to deliver gas discovered the problem and tried to block the entrance of the station with his truck, Folsom said.

But by then word was out and the rush for cheap fuel was on.

Folsom said one person threatened to hit the fuel truck driver with a hammer if he didn't stop blocking the entrance.

Criminal stupidity

DE NEW CASTLE — It could be the world's worst first date.

New Castle County police say that after two men robbed the pizza delivery woman, one of them called the victim on his cell phone to apologize — and to ask her out on a date.

The victim, 18, declined the request. Instead, she gave the cell phone number to police, who arrested Brent Brown, 25.

Through a photo lineup, the victim also identified Brown as one of the robbers.

Officers searched a residence and found the pizza boxes in the trash can with the original receipt still attached.

"It would make a perfect story for the television show, 'The World's Dumbest Criminals,'" said county police spokesman Cpl. Trinidad Navarro.



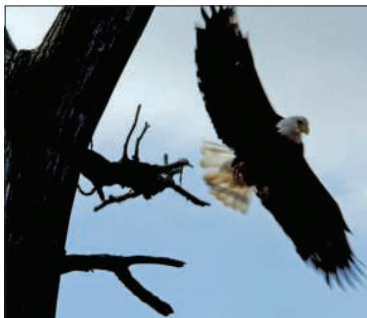
Peaceful panda

Giant panda Mei Xiang, one of two giant pandas at the National Zoo, takes time to enjoy the year's first snowfall in Washington, D.C.



Downhill all the way

Megan McElmeel, 7, left, helps push Kelsey Sands, 10, center, and Megan's twin sister, Liz McElmeel, 7, right, down the hill while sledding in Waterloo, Iowa.



Just winging it

An American bald eagle takes off from a perch above the floodwaters of the Illinois River south of the boat launch in Meredosia, Ill.



Shooting for success

Josh Elliott, 8, of Anderson, S.C., gets ready to hit the cue ball while playing pool at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club in Anderson, S.C.



Kayak country

Penny Garner of Poulsbo, Wash., takes her kayak out for the first time this year on a warm day in at the Poulsbo Marina.



Surf's (not) up!

Rick Chavez, 20, rides a skim board in the shallow surf of Miami Beach, Fla.



Shootaround

Lisa Turner, left, helps her daughter, Taska, with her jump shot in Paris, Texas.



It's all about trout

Gary Miller casts for steelhead trout in Lake Erie near Avon Lake, Ohio. In the background, ice chunks have formed atop the breakwater.

No shorts, no freedom

TN MEMPHIS — The naked jogger has met his fate: a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine for running around the neighborhood without his shorts.

Fate Patterson, 39, of West Memphis, Ark., was convicted Wednesday of indecent exposure, fleeing and resisting arrest.

Municipal Court Judge William P. Rainey sentenced him to a fully clad year behind bars.

Police had received reports for several months from a West Memphis neighborhood of a man jogging in the nude before they arrested Patterson on Jan. 11, an unseasonably warm day.

Officers said they saw Patterson jogging bare from the waist down and ordered him to stop. When he kept running, officers used a stun gun to pause the pursuit of the pantsless perpetrator.

Boy can swallow again

AZ PHOENIX — Surgeons created a new esophagus for a 5-year-old boy from Peru who hasn't been able to swallow food since accidentally drinking a cleaning solution when he was 18 months old.

Doctors at Banner Desert Medical Center in suburban Mesa said Wednesday's 6½-hour operation on Patrick Pacherez was a success and the boy may be able to go home in three months depending on his progress.

The hospital and doctors donated their services with Pacherez's trip to Arizona arranged by Healing the Children, a non-profit volunteer organization that secures medical treatment for seriously ill children from around the world.

Colleges seek farmers

CT MERIDEN — Mealy apples, boxed mashed potatoes, frozen veggie mixes and suspicious meats drive many a college student to the cereal and bagel bins.

But dining halls from Bates College in Maine to the University of California at Santa Cruz are improving their food and helping their local agricultural economies by going straight to the farm.

They're seeking out small and medium-sized farmers near campus for fresh produce, meat and dairy products. Most of the farmers grow organic crops or use pesticides sparingly and practice methods of sustainable agriculture, such as crop rotation.

About 200 colleges nationwide purchase at least one product from a small farm in their community or state, according to Kristen Markley, National Farm to College Program Manager of the Community Food Security Coalition.

Unfortunate incident

CA HAYWARD James Charles Booth was a week from retiring with a pension. The 65-year-old forklift mechanic and father, whose wife died five years ago, was looking forward to driving his RV to his new house in Nevada to pursue his love of car racing.

Known as "Gramps," Booth had lived in his home for more than a decade. But his modest neighborhood had deteriorated, gunshots rang out at night and rival gangs resorted to violence to protect their turf, acquaintances say.

Booth was ready to leave it all and start his life anew. But at 9:15

p.m. Wednesday, he heard a disturbance outside and went to his front porch to check it out. Shots rang out, and one bullet struck him in the chest. He died at his home, the innocent victim of a gang dispute, police said.

Rat 'amusement park'

IL CHICAGO — A jury handed down guilty verdicts Thursday in the federal trial of a cold storage company accused of unsanitary conditions at a food warehouse described by prosecutors as "an amusement park for rats."

LaGrou Distribution System Inc. and its president, Jack Stewart, were convicted on all counts, said Randall Samborn, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office.

Stewart, 55, was accused of conspiring to cover up unsanitary conditions at the 500,000-square foot warehouse that supplied meat and other foods to stores and restaurants throughout the Chicago area.

Child sex charge

CA SACRAMENTO — A 49-year-old man on probation for soliciting sex with a minor in July 2000 has been indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of crossing state lines to have sex with a 14-year-old girl last year, authorities say.

Michael Dahl was charged after he left his cell phone at an ex-girlfriend's home and she answered a tearful call on it from his 14-year-old victim, according to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court.

Dahl apparently had befriended the girl through a telephone personal ad service six weeks after being released from prison for violating his probation on a previous sex charge involving a minor, the complaint states.

Slush wars are on

ME PORTLAND — It's a brave new winter wonderland that has pitted neighbor against neighbor with reports of derelict property owners leaving their sidewalks covered with a slippery mush of snow and ice.

The city received scores of calls on Tuesday from people reporting their neighbors in violation of a long-standing ordinance requiring home owners and businesses to remove slippery snow and ice from their property.

"They go out with their pencils and go to town," said Maynard Sprague, a public works dispatcher.

City officials they had received complaints about 65 properties throughout Portland as of Tuesday.

'Choose Death'

SC COLUMBIA — South Carolina lawmakers are proposing several alternatives to the state's "Choose Life" license plates including "Choose Death," "Choose Abortion" and simply "Pro Choice."

The proposals were introduced after the U.S. Supreme Court this week refused to hear South Carolina's appeal of a ruling that found the state's "Choose Life" plates unconstitutional.

The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals had earlier ruled the "Choose Life" plates violated the First Amendment because abortion rights supporters were not offered a similar plate.

Stories and photos from wire services



Jack Tapp, owner of Busy Bees Apiaries in Chapel Hill, N.C., is one of only 13 commercial beekeepers in the state, which is experiencing a shortage of bees to pollinate crops.

N.C. buzz: Lack of bees hurting crops

By STEVE HARTSOE

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina is trying to boost the buzz surrounding the state's crops.

As farmers leave tobacco and move into new crops such as cucumbers, melons and berries, the state is confronting a crisis: It simply doesn't have enough honey bees to pollinate all those flowering plants.

"I feel that if we don't do something now about [this], we may be heading toward an agriculture crisis in the state," said David Tapp, the state's cooperative extension apiculturist and assistant professor at North Carolina State University.

In the late 1980s, the state had some 180,000 managed bee colonies, each of which contained at least 30,000 bees. But over the past 20 years, the state's healthy population of wild bees has been ravaged by mites.

Now, there are about 100,000 managed bee colonies, and the state's beekeepers last year had to turn down requests for some 10,000 new ones. Farmers must rely on bees from a dozen or so commercial beekeepers to pollinate their crops.

The bees are needed because without their flower-to-flower flights, farmers can't get the maximum yield from the new crops, which now account for \$100 million every year, according to state agriculture officials.

As bees visit flowers to collect nectar and pollen, they transfer pollen grains from one flower to another, fertilizing them and boosting seed and fruit production.

Bill Harrell is gradually moving out of tobacco, which doesn't need pollination to produce, and into cucumbers and melons.

At one time, the Wilson County farm that his grandfather bought during the Depression had roughly 85 acres of leaf under cultivation. Last year, Harrell grew just 38 acres of tobacco. And this



A hive of honey bees at Busy Bees Apiaries in Chapel Hill, N.C.

year, he's planting 100 acres of cucumbers and some 60 acres of melons.

Six years ago, he said, he could find plenty of bees to pollinate his flowering crops.

"Now there just ain't enough to go around," Harrell said. "Without the bees to help us pollinate, you're up against the wall."

Jack Tapp, a retired sheriff's detective who has run Busy Bee Apiaries in Chapel Hill since 1998, warns that startup costs are high and the payoff delayed in the bee business.

"You'll spend \$200,000 with no forecast of making any profit for the next two or three years, so you're not going to get many people jumping into it," he said.

North Carolina State University hopes a program it is starting will lure more people into the hobby. All aspects of bee cultivation — including breeding and production of honey, pollen and beeswax — generate \$10 million annually for the state's economy.

The school is providing 250 qualified applicants with two hives of Russian honey bees and bee hives. Participants have to invest \$50 to \$150 for beekeeper protective clothing, smokes and additional hive equipment.

Politics of ranching send horses to slaughterhouse

By REBECCA ROSEN LUM

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — He's the star of this mountain ballet: Mustang No. 04217347, a yearling pinto with one blue eye, one brown.

Graceful, young, charged, oblivious to the frigid temperatures, he gallops in a 5-acre pen with about 20 other wild horses.

He was brought to the Litchfield Bureau of Land Management compound outside Susanville, Calif., as part of a regular roundup, designed to keep down the wild horse population on public grazing lands.

In California, the agency brings in "excess" mustangs and sells them at auctions either at Litchfield, Ridgecrest, outside Bakersfield, or through independent "satellite" adoptions, such as annual ones in Brentwood and Livermore.

"How would you like to see that on your dinner plate?" asked a grim Willis Lamm, who trains horses on a ranch outside Oakley.

For feteched? Not really. A provision slipped into a federal appropriations bill silently killed a 1971 law that kept federal horses from being sold to slaughterhouses.

Without that protection, horses less attractive than Mustang No. 04217347 could join the lucrative U.S. horse meat export market.

The legislative language crafted by Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Montana, with the help of Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev. and Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., targets mustangs more than 10 years old — past the age of likely adoption — and any young horse that has been to three sales and not adopted.

Horse: It's what's for dinner

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — Once an ersatz beef of the poor, horse meat has morphed into a high-end fare of discerning European carnivores.

And some of the world's tastiest comes from the United States, where mustangs roam the range buffing up on nothing but grass, according to European horse butchers.

"Horse meat is very good for your health," said Max Marki, proprietor of Boucherie Chevaline in Geneva, Switzerland. "During World War II, it was the meat of the poor. Now ... doctors recommend it, especially for people with heart problems."

Because it takes years for a horse to reach prime slaughter age, a hardship on a continent that lacks vast grasslands, European horse butchers seek stock from overseas, including the United States.

The heart of Europe's horse consumption stretches from Franco-phone Belgium to western Switzerland via France, with pockets in Italy, Spain, Austria and Germany. Horse is eaten as well in the Canadian province of Quebec, where the taste harkens back to France, Europe's biggest consumer of horse meat and the ancestral land of most Quebecois.

Burns says his goal was to keep the mustangs from overpopulating, then starving to death. But backers, primarily cattle ranchers who hold leases on public lands, say the horses interfere in their operations.

Rachel Buzzetti, executive director of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, defended the industry's support of the repeal.

"Water, springs, forage they pretty much stomp the springs out," she said. "A lot of ranchers are showing 65 percent [less] forage."

But activists wanting to protect wild horses from slaughter are having none of it. After a recent strategizing session, they say a million-horse march on Washington is not out of the question.

The crux of the whole problem

is competition over the last blade of grass on the 200 public herd areas the BLM provides in 10 states, said Karen Sussman, president of the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros.

"Public land ranching is a welfare program. For every dollar a rancher spends on leasing the land, he gets \$3 back in subsidies," she said.

Leases to BLM grazing land are renewed automatically every 10 years and are hard to get, as many leaseholders hold onto them for many years. While private ranch lands go for up to \$50 an acre, public lands cost \$1.49.

In sparsely populated Montana, oil and gas, livestock, mining and forest products interests carry major influence, combining to donate \$400,000 to Burns' campaign in 2002, public records show.

Snake show leaves some seething

The Associated Press

ALBANY, Ga. — Snake hunters planned to gather Saturday for the 45th annual Whigham Rattlesnake Roundup, a serpent spectacle that attracts thousands to rural southwest Georgia.

The event provokes venomous opposition from environmentalists and animal-rights groups who claim the roundups are cruel and threaten Georgia's eastern diamondback population.

Sponsored by the Whigham Community Club, the roundups are a major fund-raising event in Whigham.

Everyone has their own agenda," said club president Dave Ulmer. "Ours is just to support our community. Our intention is not to upset the ecosystem."

Hunters bring the slithering reptiles to a snake ring, where they are weighed and measured



LaRue Sheffield shows off an eastern diamondback rattlesnake at the 44th annual Whigham Rattlesnake Roundup in Whigham, Ga., last year. Snake hunters brought 320 rattlesnakes to the roundup.

and used in demonstrations. Prizes are awarded to the hunter with the most rattlesnakes and the one with the largest.

The events attract upward of 20,000 people. The snakes are eventually slaughtered for their hides, used to make outdoors apparel.

Environmentalists and ani-

mal-rights groups say the traditional roundups promote animal cruelty and threaten populations.

"We think the public displays of the mistreatment of snakes reinforce the mistaken idea that snakes are worthless animals, when they are extremely valuable to the ecosystem," said Andrea Gimino, a coordinator with the Humane Society of the United States.

Sunday Horoscope

Ask not what the body of human knowledge can do for you; ask what you can do for the body of human knowledge.

A day spent dreaming, scheming and inventing is a day well spent while Mercury transits through Aquarius. Contributing to the intellectual fabric of society starts by solving the simple problems in your own life.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 30). This is your year. It makes no sense to work grueling hours and sacrifice until it hurts your soul. You should be praising instead of punishing yourself. Keep track of all you give through the next 12 weeks. Your building self-esteem is noticed by new friends and a love interest. Too. Lucky love signs are Virgo and Pisces.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Do what you must to feed your romantic life. This should feel more like fun than work, but either way, it's important to just do it. When you're not expecting a response, you'll get the best one ever.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's still more studying to do, but what you already know will begin to pay off in some way, too. You'll be asked to give a repeat performance. If you do, you shine even brighter than before.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Work will call to you, but don't answer that call — you need your rest more. Keep understanding logical ones close by. Low-key fun will be restorative. Laughter is your spiritual retreat.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Powerful people surround you, but unless you can connect with them mentally and emotionally, you won't be able to tap into their mojo. So make an effort to get on the same wavelength with your fellow man.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your approach to getting your life together today includes so much wishful thinking, you may as well be rubbing Aladdin's lamp in hopes that a genie will pop out. Lucky for you, a

magic does really happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). See the positive side of self-indulgence. Cravings or obsessive thought patterns are a sign that a basic need has yet to be met. If you satisfy the need, your symptoms finally abate, and you can get back to giving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The list of things that must be done today is endless. If you really took the time to write it out and look at it, you might be paralyzed in a state of wondering what to do first. So wing it for a few hours before you make a formal plan.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The creative well is dry. You need inspiration as much as you need food and air. Go into the world in the form of a sponge ready to soak up any entertainment, intellectual stimulation and artistry you encounter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're on a cosmic time-out — not so much a punishment as an invitation to reflect on the events of last week. Regrets? You have a few, then again, too few to mention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your body has something to tell you and could be retelling from a bad batch of yours. Don't push yourself; just make good choices. It's easier to tame the monster while the monster is still small.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Style, glamour and aesthetics are of interest. You are looking for something fresh as you hone the way you present yourself to the world. Out pictures of people who exude the kind of success you wish to have.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Really to get more supporters for your pet cause. A phone drive, e-mail list or a contest of some sort helps you make a splash. Avoid friction between friends — it's just not worth it.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Meepskate husband won't stop sweating about money

— Hopeful in Ohio

Dear Hopeful: That may not be possible, however, your daughter's future is more important than a potential argument. If the money that was raised for your daughter has been diverted, it may be considered fraud and embezzlement. For Jenny's sake, please consult a lawyer and have the lawyer get the money plus an accounting.

Dear Abby: My boyfriend is obsessed with large breasts and constantly "hints" that I should enlarge my 34Cs.

Latest he has been coming home late and telling me that he's been working overtime, when I know for a fact that he's been hanging out with his girlfriend, a stripper with 38DDs.

I love my boyfriend and don't want to lose him, but I'm not sure about enlargement. If it's the only way I can get away from her, I guess I'll do it. What do you think, Abby?

— Not Busty Enough in Philly
Dear Not Busty Enough: Rather than enlarging your breasts to satisfy his obsession, you'd better served to enlarge your circle of boyfriends.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box #9440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.pittsburgh.com/dearabby> Under Daily Press Syndicate

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I love my husband, "Harvey," very much, but he is tight with money. I am not a spendthrift, and we pay our bills on time and have no large debts, so you can get back to giving.

Every time we buy something, Harvey feels the need to comment about how much we're spending. This includes eating out — which we do infrequently. I have walked out of more than one restaurant when Harvey started complaining about the prices. I tell him it takes the enjoyment out of an otherwise pleasant experience, but he doesn't seem to get it. He says he likes to complain and that I should ignore it.

We have an anniversary coming up, and I know Harvey will want to take me out to dinner, but I can't look forward to it because I know what will happen, and I won't have a good time. What should I do?

— Wants to Eat in Peace in Maine

Dear Wants to Eat in Peace: Remind your frugal husband in plain terms that your anniversary is a special day, and you don't want the evening ruined by his complaining about the cost of the dinner. When your special day arrives and you're leaving for the restaurant, tell him sweetly that

if he complains about the expense, he'll be sleeping in the doghouse.

Dear Abby: I am (not by choice) the single mother of a beautiful 19-month-old daughter I'll call Jenny. Jenny's father, "John," died in a car accident less than a year ago. His best friend, "Paul," arranged a benefit with the proceeds to go to Jenny. That was last July. Jenny has yet to receive a dime of this money.

Paul never told me the exact amount that was raised, and he still has the money. I spend a lot of time with them, but I'm scared to ask. Paul and his wife are facing some big expenses, so I'm afraid they might "borrow" Jenny's money. All of it was donated by family, friends and the people I work for.

I ask Paul's wife about it the other day, and she said she would get back to me, but the expression on her face was unsettling. I'm afraid they're going to use my daughter's money to cover their expenses. I really want to get it out of their hands and put it in Jenny's trust account. How can I keep the peace and still get what is due my daughter?

Counseling best option for mother of criminal daughter

Dear Annie: This past summer, my 19-year-old daughter, "Joy," was arrested for murder. There is no question that she did it.

Four years ago, Joy moved out of my house and went to live with my ex-husband and his wife. In those four years, Joy quit school, was in and out of trouble, and became pregnant. My ex and his wife now have custody of our 3-year-old granddaughter, and I must say they are doing a wonderful job raising her.

Even though Joy always was a handful, we had our best to bring her up right and sought professional help all along the way. It just never did any good. I'm trying to come to terms with what my daughter has done, but I can't find any support groups for parents whose children have committed heinous crimes. There are lots of victims' groups, but none that address the grief and despair of the families of the perpetrators.

What do I say when people ask me how my daughter is doing?

— Feeling Alone

Dear Alone: Society is quick to blame the parents when a child commits a crime, even when parents have done everything possible to provide a loving, decent home life. You do not have to convey any information

about Joy's current status unless you want to. You need only say, "Joy is fine, thanks."

No matter what your child has done, we know you still love her. We are not aware of any support group, but counseling is always a good idea when faced with such anguish. Ask your doctor or clergyman to refer you to someone.

— Dear Annie:

My mother raised five children by herself and is used to cooking in huge volumes. We eat dinner at her home once a week, and she always cooks two or three times more than what we actually need, and then saddles us with the leftovers. We never want nor need this extra food.

Mom is from the old country and thinks that the way others view her cooking is a reflection on her. If we told her not to give us the leftovers, she would be deeply insulted. I really enjoy her kindness, but I don't know what to do. Your opinion?

— Sick of the Leftovers in Florida

Dear Leftovers: If you cannot tell Mom that you won't eat the leftovers, simply thank her and then toss them in your freezer or to the dog. Food that isn't decently accepted home-cooked leftovers, but if you

pass any homeless people on the street, they surely would be thrilled to receive such a meal.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter about a couple who planned a vacation with friends, but the wife is upset about leaving on her daughter's 19th birthday, even though the girl had a party the weekend before. Dad said the daughter is already mad at her for going on this trip without her. This girl is a spoiled brat.

How many dollars did those parents lavish on this girl in an attempt to pacify her? You suggested they join their friends on vacation the following day. I say "balooney!" I believe a little old brush in the right spot might help out there. That man should tell his daughter to stop whining and let his wife know, or go without her. I have been married for 63 years and would never put up with that.

— Wisconsin

Dear Wisconsin: Your advice wasn't intended to placate the daughter.

It was to alleviate the mother's anger. If leaving one day later solves the problem, it seems more sensible than telling Dad to push his weight around. But I believe a little old brush in the right spot might help out there.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Mary Sargy, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net or write to her in care of The Food Network, 577 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Creators Syndicate

History bound in 'red tape'

I have often heard people complain about things not getting accomplished due to too much bureaucratic "red tape." Please provide the origin of this phrase.

The term "red tape" has indeed been around for some time, appearing in print many times over the last 300 years. But it did not always refer to excessively complex official procedures that cause delay or frustration. In fact, "red tape" originally referred to the red, ribbon-like strips of material formerly used in England to bind legal documents.

This official use of red tape is mentioned several times in English and American literature. But even as "red tape" was being

used in this literal sense, it was already taking on its more common, negative connotation. By the 19th century, the British legal system had gained a reputation of being frustratingly complex and slow-moving. Legal documents, typically lengthy and verbose, were material manifestations of an excessively regulated and formalized system, and the bright red ribbon that bound them came to symbolize this overwrought bureaucracy. From this association "red tape" eventually came to refer to any bureaucratic rigmarole in general.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, and is available to writers seeking questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch. P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

YOUR MONEY

Combat pay, IRAs and other tax changes

BY MARY DEIBEL

Scraps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — While most breaks will go to big corporations, individual taxpayers and small-business owners also will benefit this tax season from the latest changes in the federal tax law. Changes include:

■ **State and local sales tax deductions.** For the first time, taxpayers who itemize can choose to deduct their state and local sales tax instead of state and local income tax.

The decision is a no-brainer for taxpayers from Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Wyoming — states with no general income tax — but the decision is less clear for taxpayers elsewhere.

To see if you benefit, even if you didn't save sales receipts last year, the Internal Revenue Service has put out Publication 600. It has state sales tax tables on pages 3 to 5 and an updated version of Publication 600 is posted on the www.irs.gov Web site to reflect sales tax changes in Arkansas, California and Virginia.

IRS Publication 600 also has a worksheet on which you figure

city and county local-option sales tax on lines 2a through 2d.

Big spenders should start saving their sales receipts to document items like cars, trucks, RVs, boats and airplanes that may be subject to special state and local sales taxes over and above the general sales tax rate. Sales taxes for home construction and remodeling also warrant saving receipts.

If you move from a high-income state to one that relies on sales tax, you cannot claim both the income and or sales tax deductions, but must choose between them, the IRS says. To figure which option leaves you better off, pro-rate the number of days you spent at each place, divided by 365 — the number of days in 2004 — and apportion sales tax versus income-tax rates accordingly.

■ **Car donations.** These face tighter rules if made on or after Jan. 1. If you got under the wire last year, the old tax law lets you claim the Blue Book value depending on the condition of a donated vehicle worth less than \$5,000. If the car was worth more, you need a formal appraisal to satisfy the IRS. Starting in 2005, how-

ever, you can claim only what the qualified tax-exempt charity received for selling your car, which may be auctioned for little money to a chop shop for parts.

■ **Child tax credits.** These credits will stay at an annual maximum of \$1,000 a child through 2010.

The credit cuts the amount of income tax parents owe dollar for dollar, and because the credit is "refundable," the credit will let some lower-income workers wipe out their tax bill AND provide them with a refund.

The tax credit may be more generous to some families although it cannot exceed \$1,000 a child. IRS Forms 1040 and 1040A include a Child Credit Worksheet, and parents also must include IRS Form 8812 to figure the credit.

■ **Combat pay.** Combat pay isn't subject to federal income tax but can count as 2004 income for military families figuring the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Ordinarily, both credits depend on taxable income. Including combat pay for purposes of figuring tax credits ensures that low-income military families qualify.

■ **Contingent fees.** Court judgments to lawyers for victims of discrimination aren't taxable to the victim anymore. Standard agreements for lawyers who take a bias case generally have the fees paid directly to the lawyer without the victim seeing that money, but the IRS fought all the way to the Supreme Court to make the victim, as well as the lawyer pay income tax on the fee. Congress disagreed and clarified the law.

■ **Teachers.** Teachers can deduct \$250 for classroom supplies under a tax break Congress renewed for 2004 and 2005 returns. Out-of-pocket expenses for chalk, books, computer software and other supplies bought by Dec. 31, 2004, can be claimed as an above-the-line deduction even if you don't itemize.

■ **Retirement accounts.** Contributions increase for 2005. For tax-sheltered 401(k)-style accounts, it's too late if you didn't max out on 2004 contribution levels up to \$13,000, plus \$3,000 more for workers 50 and older. But those limits increased Jan. 1 to \$14,000 plus \$4,000 more for those 50 and older.

Individual Retirement Account contributions, available for your

2004 tax return for contributions made through April 15, also increased. Your 2004 contributions, for both traditional tax-deferred IRAs and Roth IRAs, is \$3,000 plus \$500 more for taxpayers 50 and older.

For 2005, IRA limits are \$4,000 with a \$500 catch-up for those 50 and above.

■ **Tsunami relief.** Taxpayers who contribute tsunami aid to qualified domestic charities can do so with cash, check or credit card through Jan. 31, and claim the deduction on their 2004 taxes under Congress' first bill of 2005. But you cannot give in-kind contributions, appreciated stock or non-cash gifts for a 2004 tax deduction.

IRS Publication 78 offers guidance on qualified U.S. charities, as do the www.GuidesTar.org and Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance www.give.org Web sites.

■ **Small business breaks.** Small business owners won an extension of the Section 179 "instant" deduction allowance for investing \$100,000 in equipment and computer software through 2007, with the deduction adjusted for inflation starting in 2005. The post-9/11 tax break was to expire Dec. 31, 2004.

iPod shuffle: Small in size, packed with performance

BY RON HARRIS

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Since Apple Computer Inc. introduced the iPod in 2001, competitors have been scrambling to match the simplicity and style of the popular digital music player. But try as they might, the original just keeps getting better.

The latest flavor, the diminutive iPod Shuffle, proves that fewer bells and whistles can be just as good as more.

Unlike previous models, it uses flash memory instead of a hard drive. It's also much more compact. And, starting at \$99, much less expensive.

And despite the absence of a display to tell you what's playing, the Shuffle's ease of use is unrivaled. It's also a solid performer with sounds that hold up against most other flash-memory-based MP3 players you'll find on store shelves.

The iPod shuffle weighs less than my watch, is smaller than a pack of Trident gum and can hold 120 songs on the 512-megabyte model (\$99) and twice as much on the 1-gigabyte model (\$149).

Visually, it's little more than a small white stick with a USB plug on one end and a headphone jack on the other. Tracks are navigated with buttons that are arranged to resemble the familiar iPod click wheel.

There's no docking cradle. No bulky battery pack. No AC adapter.

There's really not much here except the best portable music player for the money. Paired with Apple's popular online music store — 250 million songs downloaded and counting as of Monday — this iPod shuffle could be just the low-priced entry-level player that many of the sidelines have been waiting for.

The installation disc includes the latest version of iTunes music management software. Once you've got that on your computer (Windows or Mac) you

simply plug the Shuffle's USB plug directly into an available USB port on your computer and up pops your music collection, ripe for the shuffling.

And herein lies the feature that may change the way I listen to music. At the click of a new button called "Autofill" on the iTunes interface, the software automatically loads the shuffle with a random selection from my digital music library.

It was a bit of a personal revelation when I first autotuned the lousier 512 MB model from my hearty music folder. The result? Too much Insane Clown Posse and not enough Andres Segovia. The Shuffle also grabbed some lengthy drum 'n' bass mix tracks which ate up a bit too much space.

If you're not sure you want a random mix, you can upload a specific order of songs and the unit will play them nicely. If you change your mind and want them shuffled, a sliding switch on the back of the unit will do the trick instantly.

Also on the backside of the shuffle is a battery status check light: green means plenty, amber means low and red means you don't have much juice left. No light means no power.

The specs say the Shuffle's rechargeable battery, juiced up by plugging it into a computer's USB port, will last for 12 hours. It takes about 4 hours for a full charge.

After at least 3 hours of use upon first filling the Shuffle with music, I never dipped into the amber level once.

There are some drawbacks. Since there's no LCD screen on the Shuffle, there's really no way to navigate to a particular track without memorizing the order and clicking through them. That might be a bummer for some who want quick access to a particular song.

Otherwise, there's little fault to find here. For those looking for simplicity and ultra-portability, less can be more.



The iPod shuffle is a compact and less-expensive version of the regular-sized iPod shown here. Attached to this iPod is the Simpli A1, a small but powerful amplifier that clips onto the back. The Simpli A1, from Simpli Acoustics, costs \$149; reviewers say it does the job well.

AP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Bush put big picture into words
Chicago Tribune

At his [second] inaugural, President Bush spoke to a nation where political divisions run deep, a nation at war, a nation where many of its citizens sharply question the wisdom of his leadership.

The president acknowledged that division, but he also delivered a stirring reminder that there are values — democracy, liberty, freedom and opportunity — that unite this nation.

Those are not mere words. They are words that dictate actions, words that carry consequences, words that can bring change — and pain. "America's vital interests and our deepest beliefs are now one," Bush said. The speech was notable for what Bush did not say. He did not mention Iraq. He said nothing of Iran, North Korea or other nations that threaten the world with their nuclear ambitions. He didn't have to.

For as surely as the Cold War was a contest between two ideologies — capitalism and communism — so too is the current war on terror a battle of beliefs. In this war, America fights an enemy that cherishes fear over liberty, that fights fiercely to maintain the ability to repress women and minorities, that slaughters innocents in a campaign to deny citizens the right to vote freely. ...

Political speeches sometimes rise to history. Here is a prayer that Bush's words live beyond the moment, and that the next four years are defined not by divisions, but by the values that all Americans share.

No one could rival Carson
The (Carlsle, Pa.) Sentinel

Carnac the Magnificent, Art Fern, host of the "Tea Time Movie," Floyd R. Turbo, concerned citizen. And dear, sweet, lovable Aunt Blabby.

Any of these were characters played by Johnny Carson, the record-setting host of "The Tonight Show" who died Sunday at age 79. But Carson won't be remembered for the roles so much as he will be remembered for being himself.

As a fan and a student of comedy, he championed the people who could make him laugh. The simple device of inviting a young standup comic over to the desk instead of cutting to a commercial was Carson's stamp of approval — and one that seldom escaped his hosts' notice.

Competing TV networks coveted Carson's audience, and it's a tribute to him that they could never carve out much of a slice of it from Johnny Carson. He was the most popular man in America, from Dick Cavett to Chevy Chase, from Pat Sajak and Joan Rivers to Arsenio Hall. There are enough of them to create a museum of failed late-night talk show hosts.

Carson was never to tip for the heartland, never too uncool for the coasts. Despite his occasional flights with the network to raise his pay, shorten the program and bring in guest hosts, he never seemed to leave the show and he always made it look easy.

Keep moderation in mind
The Seattle Post-Intelligencer

President Bush's second term inevitably will involve American domestic policies. His legacy and the country's future will be brightened if he makes balance his watchword.

It means resisting any urge to remake society along the lines of the most conservative Republican ideology. Such overreach could threaten long-standing social safety net supports and deepen cultural divisions without re-establishing the middle-class strengths that have built this country.



If Bush follows a moderate course, however, he will give the country opportunities to build on the individual virtues about which he so deeply cares while maintaining reasonable levels of social support and cohesion. ...

After a first term marked by tax cuts and deficits, Bush has an obligation to follow through on promises to reduce the flow of red ink. One test of leadership will be to limit the deficits without damaging housing, education and low-income health care. ...

Rather than bemoaning the differences between Washington, D.C., and Austin, Texas, he needs to take responsibility for creating more common ground. Nothing would help more than big doses of moderation, balance and compassionate policymaking.

Also cure what ails residents
Journal Star, Peoria, Ill.

The father in your neighborhood who developed Lou Gehrig's disease at age 33 called a Social Security check if he can no longer work. So do the young mother disabled by multiple sclerosis, the 55-year-old former hospital aide whose back gave out after too many years of lifting patients, and the 22-year-old with Christopher Reeve's limitations but not his money.

You might call individuals such as these the silent minority of Social Security recipients. Unable to work when things get lean, often burdened by high medical (and sometimes by high caretaking) bills, sometimes raising children, too young to have invested much, they may be the program's most vulnerable. As the nation ponders the future of Social Security, we need to hear, and to talk, much more about them. ...

Yet the disability side of the Social Security program has been largely forgotten in our obsession with the retirement side.

As this suggests, nothing about Social Security reform is simple. There is great risk of hurting badly those struck down early, before they have a chance to rely in what Wall Street might endow. No reform should pass, or be proposed, that shortchanges the most vulnerable.

New telecom plan should stay
The Philadelphia Inquirer

With radio shock-jock Howard Stern charging (the Jan. 21) announcement that Michael Powell is resigning, the Federal Communications Commission chairman's

15 minutes in the public spotlight appears to be nearing its end. But it won't be Powell's tussle with Stern over potty-mouthed, on-air performances — nor his agency's crack-down after Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" — that forms his legacy.

Rather, it is Powell's policymaking across a range of mind-numbingly complex communications issues that are noteworthy.

When he was right — as on promoting an unfettered Internet, and online phone and wireless services — he was a trailblazer. When wrong — as when Powell championed misguided media mergers and a backward step on local phone competition — he was far off-base. ...

Powell leaves in March. His successor doesn't have to achieve the same high profile, much less prompt a Stern rant. An ear for consumers' concerns on all telecom issues — at least as attentive as the FCC under Powell has been to industry — will be welcome change enough.

Reconfigure reservist equation
The Buffalo (N.Y.) News

The "wave of steel" that rolled through the Iraqi desert is corroding in the swamp of occupation and insurgency, and America's combat soldiers are paying a high price for that. With reserves now making up 40 percent of American Army forces in Iraq and Kuwait — and heading toward 50 percent — the Pentagon's Army Reserve chief is right to warn that this force could soon be broken.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld owes the country and its servicemembers an explanation for that disproportionate commitment of reserve forces, instead of better redeployment of the nation's sizable active-duty military force. While today's reserves are better trained and equipped than their predecessors, Rumsfeld's refusal to admit a need for more active-duty deployments is placing a huge burden on the nation's part-time soldiers. ...

The demands being made on reservists already are hurting recruitment and retention, making it more difficult for these units to meet their mandated missions. Worse, the inability to retain soldiers could lead to less-experienced, less-capable units being sent in harm's way.

There simply is no excuse for the fact that reservists, despite being as well trained as any in this country's history, make up nearly half the Army in the Middle East. ...

America's combination of volunteer regular forces and skilled reserves has been a good one, but this administration's miscalculations in Iraq have now put it at risk.

Schiaivo's palm not state's call
The Palm Beach Post,
West Palm Beach, Fla.

[Florida Gov. Jeb] Bush dangerously involved the state in the dispute over Terri Schiaivo's life. That dispute isn't over, but thanks to the U.S.'s Supreme Court, the state is out of it.

On Monday, the justices declined to hear the governor's appeal of September's unanimous Florida Supreme Court ruling that struck down "Terri's Law."

Facing pressure from groups opposed to abortion and physician-assisted suicide, legislators wrote "Terri's Law" strictly for Ms. Schiaivo, and the governor signed it. In so doing, the legislative and executive branches unconstitutionally tried to block an order by the judicial branch that they didn't like.

Ms. Schiaivo's case got into the courts because she, like many Floridians, did not have a living will. If the Legislature wishes to change the state's death-and-dying laws to address such cases, the Legislature can do so. But that will be a different debate. ...

There is almost certainly no satisfying outcome to the tragedy that has become the Terri Schiaivo case but, because of the state Supreme Court and now the U.S. Supreme Court, it at least may be an isolated case.

Graner still doesn't get it
The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch

The conviction and 10-year sentence for U.S. Army Spc. Charles Graner Jr., ringleader of the prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, should make clear that the United States has not abandoned common decency in the effort to eradicate terrorism.

Graner's sentence also reduces his rank to private and orders him dishonorably discharged from the military after he completes his sentence.

He was found guilty of beating prisoners, ordering them stripped naked and stacked into pyramids, forcing them into simulated sex acts and photographing them.

The harsh punishment is suitable for a soldier who still has demonstrated little understanding that his actions disgraced the Army and the nation.



SCOREBOARD, FROM PAGE 25

Deals

Friday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

MLB—Elected John Henry and John Moores to the executive council.

American League

CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Designated RHP Jason Grill for assignment.

CLEVELAND INDIANS—Agreed to terms with RHP Paul Shuey on a minor league contract.

FLORIDA TWINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Andres Torres on a minor league contract.

NEW YORK YANKEES—Agreed to terms with LHP Danny Borrell, INF Homer Bush, INF Ruben Castro, C Jose Parrish, OF Doug Glavine, OF Noah Hall, C Ryan Hankins, INF Brian Johnson, C Jose De Jesus, OF Collin Porco, C Irvil Rios, INF Damian Rios, C Omar Soto, RHP Mark Valdes, OF Mike Vento and RHP Brad Voyles on minor league contracts.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms with RHP Brian Stiles, C Toby Hall and SS Julio Lugo on one-year contracts. Sent RHP John Webb outright to Durham of the IL.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to terms with RHP Jim Cantalejo, RHP Casey Dalglish, RHP Brandon Medders, LHP Shane Bieber, RHP Phil Stockman, C Crisp Anderson, C Juan Bero, C Corey Myers, C Alan Zinter, INF Andy Green, INF Sergio Santos, OF Doug Mawrey, OF Connor Jackson and OF Carlos Quentin on minor league contracts.

ATLANTA BRAVES—Agreed to terms with RHP Jay Powell on a minor league contract.

NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with LHP Mike Matheson on a minor league contract.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

BOSTON CELTICS—Placed F Al Jefferson on the injured list. Activated J Justin Reid from the injured list.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Activated F Chris Wilcox from the injured list.

NEW JERSEY NETS—Claimed C Elden Campbell off waivers from Utah.

NEW ORLEANS HORNETS—Placed G Baron Davis on the injured list. Signed G Junior Harrington to a 10-day contract.

NEW YORK KNICKS—Placed G Allen Houston on the injured list. Activated G-F Anfernee Hardaway and G Mookie Norris from the injured list.

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS—Suspended F Dorell Wright two games for conduct detrimental to the team and its association.

FOOTBALL

DALLAS COWBOYS—Fired Jim Jeffcoat, defensive ends coach.

GREEN BAY PACKERS—Named Jeffery Bennett running backs coach. Signed LB Ike Eki.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Named Jimmy Bland running backs coach and Willy Robinson senior defensive assistant coach.

NEW YORK JETS—Named Jeremy Bates quarterbacks coach.

TENNESSEE TITANS—Named Ray Sherman wide receivers coach.

SOCCER

D.C. UNITED—Re-signed D Mike Petke.

KANSAS CITY WIZARDS—Signed D Nick Garcia and MF Sasha Vignaroli to multiyear contracts.

LOS ANGELES GALAXY—Signed MF Peter Vagenas to a multiyear contract.

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES—Signed D Craig Walcott.

COLLEGE

CENTRAL MICHIGAN—Announced the resignation of Larry Anderson, athletic director.

INDIANA STATE—Named Charley Moore offensive coordinator, associate head coach and quarterbacks coach. Added Kelly Sells as offensive coordinator, Jackie Cooper wide receivers coach. David Hutchins as defensive coordinator. Recruiting coordinator. Nathaniel Seward defensive backs coach. Paul Mackowski as recruiting coordinator. Nathaniel Seward coordinator and safeties coach. Todd Mackowski as defensive line coach and Antonio Banks cornerbacks coach. Announced women's basketball was added in 2005.

MESA STATE, COLO.—Suspended senior F Lou Carruth and C Melvin Smith for F Amber Kirschner and sophomore G Emily Stiles indefinitely from the women's basketball team for violating school rules.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE—Named Marc Vignaroli as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

NOTRE DAME—Named Jim Kubinski men's soccer coach.

OKLAHOMA STATE—Named Mike Gundy football coach.

QUINNIPAC—Named Darci Santella assistant softball coach.

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE—Announced the resignation of Dennis Masl, women's basketball coach.

WORCESTER STATE—Named Christian Battaglia men's soccer coach.

Serena rallies to win seventh major title

Williams comes back against Davenport in Australian Open women's final

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Serena Williams was losing and in pain, wincing on almost every swing. Her shots lacked their usual zip. Her hopes for a seventh Grand Slam title appeared doomed.

Then, with a little help from the trainer, the woman who calls herself the toughest fighter in tennis started getting her power back. And it was top-ranked Lindsay Davenport who was in trouble.

Williams rallied for a 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory in the Australian Open final Saturday for her first Grand Slam title in 18 months.

She also ended her winning streak in this event to 14 matches.

In Sunday's men's final — the first at night — third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt will face fourth-seeded Rafael Nadal, who is in his third final in four years at Melbourne Park but has yet to win one.

The Russian ended Roger Federer's 26-match winning streak in the semifinals, while Hewitt beat second-seeded Andy Roddick.

Davenport wonhardt early. The match was a little more than a minute old and she had Williams running from side to side.

"I reached for a backhand and I think it tweaked my back out, one of my ribs out," said Williams, who will jump to No. 2 in the rankings.

Injuries had played a part in Williams' fall from the top spot, and it looked as if her health would fail her again Saturday.

"I said: This is not happening again," she said.

She tried to play through the pain.

"I never, ever think that I have to give up, in the most dire situations," Williams said. Still, "For the next few games I was completely out of it. I had to adjust."

Williams was down 4-1 when she asked for help.

"I finally decided, 'OK, why don't you call for the trainer and see if she can put it back in place?'"

She did, and everything worked out," Williams said.

It wasn't quite that simple.

Although Williams started to loosen up, Davenport went on to win the first set. The turning point came as Williams served at 2-2 in the second. Appearing twice to be on the verge of smashing her racket, she fended off six break points to hold.

"I was serving so many balls my arm was hurting," Williams recalled. "I kept thinking 'I'm not losing this game. I don't care if my arm falls off.'"

A tiebreaker loomed as Davenport served at 3-4, 40-0. Two double-faults and a couple of other errors later, and it was 5-3.

Davenport never had another chance, losing the last nine games and winning only eight points in the third set.

"I felt like I was playing well and in control pretty much of the match," Davenport said. "Then I just had that horrible lapse ... and opened up the door for her. She just kept going through it."

"At the end I think I was a little bit fatigued. But she took advantage of it and kept going — she's a great front-runner when she gets going."

Steady morning rain forced the roof at Rod Laver Arena to close for the 10th all-American women's final in the Australian Open.

In the men's doubles championship, Zimonovic's Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett beat American twins Bob and Mike Bryan 6-4, 6-4. It was the second Grand Slam title for Black and Ullyett, who won the 2001 U.S. Open. The Bryans also lost last year's final.

In mixed doubles, Martina Navratilova, 48, and Max Mirnyi of Belarus lost their semifinal to Ullyett and Lieke Huber of South Africa 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (8). Navratilova, 31 in doubles and nine in mixed, doubles.

Williams reached the final by staying off three match points in a semifinal victory over Maria Sharapova on Thursday.

With her Grand Slam drought



Serena Williams leaves Melbourne with her seventh trophy from a Grand Slam event, and her first in 18 months, after a 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Lindsay Davenport in the Australian Open on Saturday.

over, Williams started talking about winning an eighth major and regaining the No. 1 spot. The French Open is next, and a victory there would give her two titles in each of the four majors.

Williams won her first Australian Open when she beat sister Venus in the top of her two years ago when the Williams sisters were in the final of women's tennis — but couldn't defend the title last year because of a knee injury.

Working through a series of injuries and the shooting death of

her sister, Yvetunde Price, in September 2003, took a toll on Serena Williams last year.

She said regaining the Australian title was the start of a resurgence.

"This gives me confidence," she said.

After Davenport's backhand landed long on match point, Williams dropped to one knee and raised both arms. She hopes this title will end talk of the demise of the Williams sisters.

"There's nothing wrong with us," she said. "We're still players to beat."

Sosa: Orioles were outbid for Pavano, Delgado

SOSA, FROM BACK PAGE

The New York Mets were initially thought to be the best bet because general manager Omar Minaya signed Sosa when he was a free agent in the Dominican Republic. But the Mets won the bidding for Carlos Beltran two weeks ago, and two Mets officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity said they were not involved with Sosa trade talks this week.

Baltimore's interest intensified after the Orioles lost out on Carlos Delgado earlier this week. Baltimore offered Delgado \$48 million over four years, but the slugger took a \$52 million, four-year deal from the Florida Marlins instead.

After finishing 78-84 in 2004,

their seventh straight losing season, the Orioles entered the off-season seeking to add a front-line starting pitcher and a cleanup hitter. They courted pitcher Carl Pavano, who signed with the New York Yankees, and their failure to secure Delgado means their first free agent signing so far this winter is reliever Steve Kline.

Beattie and Flanagan were under extra pressure to improve the club because of the potential competition for fans with the Nationals. The addition of Sosa would give the Orioles a marketable star.

Trading Sosa might prompt the Cubs to attempt to sign Magglio Ordonez, the last remaining top free agent. Ordonez, who starred for the Chicago White Sox, has been in negotiations with Detroit.

Sosa has 574 home runs, seventh on the career list, and his home run race with Mark McGwire in 1998 made him one of the game's most popular players. With an infectious smile, strong runs and heart plays, he became Chicago's favorite athlete after Michael Jordan retired. In all those dark years when the Cubs struggled, Sosa and his jaw-dropping homers were the lone bright spots.

But Sosa's relations with the Cubs — and the fans — soured in recent years. Hampered by injuries, he's batted only .266 the last two seasons and his homer totals have dropped. Last season, Sosa batted only .253 — his lowest average since 1997 — and hit 35 homers and 80 RBIs in 126 games,

ending his run of 100-RBI seasons at nine.

The breaking point came when he skipped out on the final game of last season. He criticized manager Dusty Baker the next day, with Sosa saying all the blame was put on him for the Cubs' failures. In a later interview, Sosa said he was humiliated by being dropped to sixth in the batting order.

While Cubs General Manager Jim Hendry, Baker and Cubs players insisted at last week's Cubs convention that Sosa's presence wouldn't be a disruption to the team, fans weren't buying it. When his image appeared on a video, there was a loud chorus of boos.

AP Sports Writers Nancy Amour in Chicago and Jeff Labrecque in Baltimore contributed to this report.

Hardaway helps Knicks halt skid

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Penny Hardaway watched from afar as the New York Knicks stumbled through a disastrous January.

Finally back with the team Friday after rehabbing his hamstring in his hometown of Memphis, Hardaway played a big part in helping his team end its seven-game slide.

Hardaway showed no rust in his first game in more than three weeks, making a key jumper with 36 seconds remaining to lead the Knicks to a 99-96 victory Friday night over the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers.

After being activated from the injured list prior to the game, Hardaway finished with 12 points and was on the court for the entire fourth quarter as the Knicks held off the Cavs, who were without LeBron James (sprained ankle) for the first time this season.

"We missed him a lot. A player like that, you can't replace him," Cavs center Zydrunas Ilgauskas said.

Six days after taking over for Lenny Wilkens, Herb Williams gained his first victory as coach of the Knicks.

The win couldn't have come at a better time for New York, which played the final date of a four-game homestand before leaving on a six-game road trip. Another loss would have put the Knicks in jeopardy of approaching the team-record losing streak of 12 games set in 1984-85.

Bucks 101, Raptors 94: Kareem Rush scored 21 points and host Charlotte figured out how to make foul shots in time to snap a 10-game losing streak.

Awful at the free-throw line during its

NBA roundup

skid, Charlotte made 17 of 19 attempts in winning for the first time since Jan. 5 against Minnesota. The Bobcats' only misses came in the final minute.

Magic 108, Wizards 101: Hedo Turkoglu matched his career high with 31 points in the second quarter — and the Magic ended visiting Washington's four-game winning streak.

Grant Hill added 22 points and eight rebounds for Orlando, and Steve Francis made two free throws with 16.6 seconds left to seal the win. Gilbert Arenas scored 18 of his 30 in the fourth quarter for Washington, but missed five of seven free throws in the final 2:02.

Suns 128, Celtics 119: At Boston, Amaré Stoudamire scored 42 points, Quentin Richardson added 23 and Phoenix won its fourth straight game.

Joe Johnson and Jim Jackson scored 17 points each for the Suns, Shawn Marion added 16 and Steve Nash had 13 points and 15 assists.

Heat 106, Hawks 96: At Atlanta, Miami's Shaquille O'Neal scored 26 points and actually made more free throws than he missed.

O'Neal finished 6-for-11 at the foul line — a major improvement over his 7-for-20 struggle in a victory at Toronto two nights earlier.

Timberwolves 93, Jazz 91: Kevin Garnett had 25 points and a key steal in the final minute to help Minnesota to its fifth straight victory.

With the Timberwolves ahead 93-91, Utah was going for the tying basket when Garnett stole Raul Lopez's outlet pass. Garnett fed a breaking Sam Cassell for a layup and a four-point lead.

Hornets 99, 76ers 95 (OT): At New Orleans, P.J. Brown scored six of his season-high 20 points in overtime, and had 10 rebounds for the Hornets.

Dan Carlucci had 19 points and a career-high 16 assists, setting up two key mid-range jumpers by Brown in overtime.

The 76ers were without NBA-leading scorer Allen Iverson, sitting out a second straight game with a strained left shoulder.

Kings 117, Rockets 111 (OT): At Houston, Chris Webber scored 30 points, including a three-pointer to force overtime, and Sacramento beat the Houston.

Mike Bibby added 28 points and 14 assists for the Kings, who won despite playing without Peja Stojakovic for the second straight game.

Trail Blazers 90, Clippers 86: Damon Stoudamire had 18 of his 22 points in the second half, and host Portland rallied.

Elton Brand had 26 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers, who have lost six straight and nine of 10 on the road. The Clippers haven't won in Portland since 1998.

Nets 109, Lakers 103: At Los Angeles, Vince Carter scored 18 of his 30 points in the third quarter, and Jason Kidd had 15 points and 11 assists for short-handed New Jersey.

The Lakers, coming off losses to Seattle and the Clippers, have dropped three straight for the first time since Jan. 19-22, 2004. Los Angeles is 3-4 since Kobe Bryant



New York Knicks' Penny Hardaway shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers' Aleksandar Pavlovic (3) during the first half Friday.

sprained his right ankle on Jan. 13 in a victory over Cleveland.

Already missing leading scorer Richard Jefferson for the rest of the season because of a wrist injury, New Jersey dressed only three players and used its 13th different starting lineup because of injuries to Brian Scalabrine and Jason Collins.

SuperSonics 88, Warriors 85: Rashard Lewis scored 24 points and hit a key jumper with 46 seconds left, and Ray Allen had 26 points for visiting Seattle.

Calbert Cheaney scored 14 of his season-high 21 points in the second quarter for the Warriors, who lost for the 13th time in 14 games.

Blazers suspend Miles after clash with coach Cheeks

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Trail Blazers forward Darius Miles was suspended by the team for two games Friday after a verbal clash with coach Maurice Cheeks during a game loss.

The Blazers suspended Miles for conduct detrimental to the team and insubordination. The Blazers were preparing for Friday night's home game against the Clippers when the punishment was handed down.

"I am disappointed that we've had this distraction to deal with today," Blazers President Steve Patterson said in a statement.

"We expect a certain behavior from everyone in our organization, and what happened yesterday is not acceptable behavior," he said. Trail Blazers would not comment on the nature of the confrontation, except to say there was one Thursday.

"He blew up in the film session," said Cheeks, who characterized Miles' comments as inappropriate.

Messages left for Miles' Florida-based agent, Jeff Wechsler, were not immediately returned Friday.

In a statement released by the Blazers, Miles said: "Things were said in frustration and I am sorry for that. It is very important to me that our fans understand that I am committed to winning and that the losses we have had this

season have been difficult for all of us. My entire focus when I return to the team will be on winning and helping us make a run to the playoffs."

The Blazers have previously suspended players for confrontations with Cheeks.

Bonzi Wells was suspended for one game in March 2003 for cursing at Cheeks during a practice. In November 2003, Wells was suspended for two games for a profanity-laced tirade to Cheeks on the court after he was taken out of a game at Dallas. Two weeks later, Wells was traded to Memphis.

Miles, who signed a six-year, \$48 million contract with the Blazers in the offseason, also will miss Tuesday's game against the Los Angeles Lakers at the Staples Center.

Miles was not at the team's shootaround Friday morning. He recently missed eight games because of a bone bruise in his left knee.

He has appeared in 32 games this season, with 10 starts. He was averaging 12.9 points and five rebounds. Miles has not started since he was activated from the injured list.

Miles' suspension comes as the Blazers try to get past trouble with former Portland forward Ronald Wright, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor animal abuse last week following allegations of dog fighting.

Upon his plea, Woods was immediately waived by the Blazers, who had suspended him indefinitely without pay when the alle-

gations first surfaced in early October.

Woods has since signed with the Miami Heat.

Nets claim Campbell off waivers — The New Jersey Nets claimed center Elden Campbell off waivers on Friday, two days after he was released by the Utah Jazz.

"We're really excited that we've had the good fortune to pick up a player of his caliber," coach Lawrence Frank said before Friday night's game against the Los Angeles Lakers. "He's always been a very capable all-around player with a big body, and he's a big presence out there."

Campbell, a 16-year veteran who won an NBA championship last year with the Detroit Pistons, spent his first nine seasons with the Lakers before he was traded to the Charlotte Hornets during the 1998-99 campaign. He later played for Seattle before signing with Detroit prior to last season.

"We've always had a hard time defending him because he's a skill guy — not only is a low-post scorer, but he's a good passer and he shoots it very well from 15-17 feet," Frank said. "And with the loss of Aaron Williams and

Alonzo Mourning (because of the Vince Carter trade), we thought we needed some size. He helped Detroit, especially against the Lakers in the finals."

Campbell averaged 4.2 points and 2.8 rebounds in 21 games for the Pistons this season. The sleepy-eyed 7-footer was traded to Utah on Jan. 21 for point guard Carlos Arroyo and a first-round draft pick.

Campbell was hoping to clear waivers so that he could return to the Pistons. Thorn, who had to use a \$5 million exception for the right to claim Campbell off waivers, will speak with him on the phone Saturday morning and try to convince him to prolong his career. If he doesn't, the Nets would lose the \$5 million regardless.

"I don't have any indication one way or the other right now, but I assume that he will join the team," Thorn said. "As far as I'm concerned, he's property of the Nets. Obviously, he has the prerogative of retiring, but we're going to have a conversation with him and see what transpires. I don't think he wants to retire."

Hornets' Davis joins injured list

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Hornets placed Baron Davis on the injured list Friday

because of a bruised right Achilles tendon, allowing the team to bring back point guard Junior Harrington on a 10-day contract.

Davis, who already has missed the last five games with the injury that occurred in Toronto on Jan. 16, likely will not play again until the Hornets face Golden State on Feb. 11, coach Byron Scott said.

The NBA granted an exception to New Orleans to allow Davis to be the team's fourth player on the injured list, one more than the normal maximum.

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Eagles' Mitchell riles Pats' with Super talk

BY ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Freddie Mitchell's big mouth struck again.

The Philadelphia Eagles' other loquacious receiver — the one without the Pro Bowl pedigree and ankle injury — offended some Patriots when he dissed their secondary in a television interview.

Mitchell, a starter only because All-Pro Terrell Owens is hurt, said he just knew the numbers — not the names — of New England's cornerbacks. He singled out Rodney Harrison, saying he "has something" for the veteran strong safety.

"It just shows he doesn't have respect for us," Patriots cornerback Asante Samuel said Friday, responding to Mitchell's comments from a day earlier.

The Patriots' defensive backs will see Mitchell up close when the defending champions meet the Eagles in the Super Bowl next Sunday.

"You have so many young guys nowadays, so many young guys that don't have respect for the game," Harrison said. "Some people are just immature. Some people really haven't experienced certain things."

The Patriots have a patchwork secondary that includes a rookie free agent (Randall Gay), a converted wide receiver (Troy Brown) and a guy (Hank Poteat) who was taking college courses before the playoffs started.

Starters Tyrone Poole and Ty Law have been sidelined by injuries most of the season, but the fill-ins shut down Peyton Manning and the rest of the Indianapolis Colts in a second-round playoff game and intercepted three passes off Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger in the AFC championship game.

"Freddie Mitchell is a guy who is getting time now because Terrell is hurt," Patriots linebacker Willie McGinest said. "We don't worry about what he's saying. He will have to deal with that on the field."

"All I can say is, Rodney Harrison is the wrong guy to mention, especially if you're a receiver. He (Mitchell) is not humble. He hasn't done enough in this league to be on TV talking about that. Philly has a lot more class than that. It's just one guy."

Mitchell's response to the Patriots' reaction? "I was joking. I don't care. It'll all be solved on Sunday," he said.

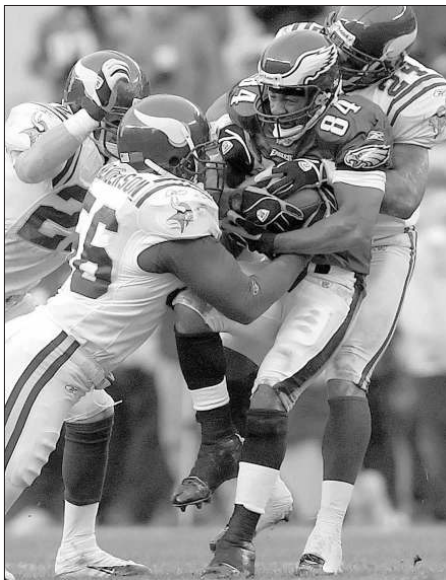
A first-round pick in 2001, Mitchell hasn't lived up to his potential in four seasons with the Eagles. He had five catches for 65 yards and two touchdowns, including one on a fumble recovery, in Philadelphia's second-round playoff victory over Minnesota. He caught just two passes for 20 yards in the NFC championship game against Atlanta.

"I'm a special player," Mitchell said after the victory over Minnesota. "I want to thank my hands for being so great."

Mitchell and the rest of the Eagles receivers clearly are tired of hearing about Owens, who had surgery to repair torn ankle ligaments on Dec. 22 and is trying to return for the Super Bowl despite his doctor's orders.

"We got there without T.O.," Mitchell said. "He's going to be a great addition if he comes, but we're going to stick with our guys. When he comes back, he'll be a huge help for us because he's one of the best receivers in the game. Until then, let's talk about Greg Lewis, Todd Pinkston and Freddie Mitchell, the receivers who are here and won the NFC championship."

Mitchell later grabbed a reporter's microphone and bombarded Lewis with questions in a mock voice: "What about T.O.? Is



The Eagles' Freddie Mitchell is tackled by Viking defenders in the NFC championship game. Mitchell angered the Patriots' secondary with comments during a TV interview.

he 80 percent? When is he coming back? How do the receivers get it done without T.O.?"

Lewis replied: "Everybody said we

weren't capable of winning without T.O., but we proved them wrong."

Mitchell has something to prove to the Patriots.

Jury acquits Ravens CB Fuller of gambling, gun charges

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Baltimore Ravens cornerback Corey Fuller was acquitted Saturday of all three gambling and gun charges after being accused of running high-stakes card games at his house.

**NFL
briefs**

The six-member jury deliberated

a few hours before rejecting two days of prosecution testimony on charges carrying a possible five-year prison sentence.

The prosecution failed to prove Fuller either kept a gambling house, a felony, or gambled illegally, a misdemeanor.

Prosecutor Matt Smith told jurors that Fuller presided over the games like "a pit boss," armed and demanding the house cut, which was put in a shoe box.

Fuller acknowledged he was carrying a holstered gun when his house was raided last April 28. He acquired a concealed weapon permit after a shootout at his house earlier in the year.

Fuller, a 10-year NFL veteran, had 13 tackles and no sacks in 14 games this season.

Packers add RB coach Bennett

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Former Green Bay Packer Edgar Bennett

was hired Friday as running backs coach.

The team's fourth-round draft selection in 1992, Bennett is the ninth-ranked rusher in Packers history with 3,353 yards from 1992-96. He also holds the club's season record for receptions by a running back with 78.

Bennett spent the last four years in the team's player development department.

Cowboys fire Jeffcoat

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys fired assistant coach Jim Jeffcoat on Friday, ending a 19-year relationship between the team and the former first-round draft pick.

Jeffcoat coached defensive ends for five years.

Jeffcoat, a first-round draft choice of the Cowboys in 1983, spent 12 years on the defensive line before joining the team as an assistant line coach in 1998.



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American Ruggiero adds a lady's touch to men's pro hockey

BY KELLY KURT
The Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — Angela Ruggiero was ready to play some hockey, and it didn't matter that she had to mix it up with men.

Ruggiero became the first woman to make more than a token appearance at a position other than goalie in a U.S. men's professional hockey game, playing defense and getting an assist Friday night for the Tulsa Oilers, who was definitely a lot of contact, but it was all clean. That's hockey," she said. "It's a rough game."

Seconds after being checked on her third shift of the night, Ruggiero responded by slamming a Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees player into the boards. At 5 feet 9 and 185 pounds, Ruggiero is known for doling out punishment in women's games, holding Harvard's season record for penalty minutes at 74.

Former U.S. goalie Erin Whitten skated for 18 seconds at forward for the Colorado Avalanche's Flint Generals in 1996.

Two-time Olympian Ruggiero and her brother, Bill, the goaltender for the Oilers, made hockey history as the first brother and sister to play together in a North American pro game.

Restless and sweating following 6 minutes, 33 seconds of ice time on the first period, Ruggiero said she didn't want to stop.

"I wish I could play the whole game and come back tomorrow," she said.

She gave her wish at the start of the third period when both coaches and the Central Hockey League agreed to let her return to the ice with the Oilers leading 4-0. In her last shift, she tied a pass to Jason Bernhardt, who scored in the Oilers' 7-2 victory.

Although she was in the starting lineup, the CHL originally limited Ruggiero's playing time to the first period because she was an extra on the Oilers' roster.

Ruggiero said her nerves had settled by her second shift.

Ruggiero was cheered on by a crowd packed with young girls taking advantage of free tickets. A portion of the ticket receipts benefited the American Red Cross tsunami relief fund.

But this was no exhibition. Friday night counted in the standings, and the victory kept the Oilers (22-15-3) three points out of first place in the league's Northeast Division.

"I think it's great for our momentum," said Oilers coach Bud Kaebeel, who earlier said he had no reservations about signing Ruggiero for the one-time appearance. "Her résumé speaks for itself."

The 25-year-old skater, who won gold and silver medals as a member of the 1998 and 2002 U.S. Women's Olympic teams, was the second woman to play in the league.

Whitten played four games in goal for the Dallas Freeze in 1993-94.

In 1992, Canada's Manon Rheaume made history as the first woman to play in the NHL when she tended goal for the Tampa Bay Lightning in a pre-season game. Another Canadian, Hayley Wickenheiser, became the first woman to score in a men's game, getting a goal in the Finnish League in 2003. Barbara Zemann debuted at goalie for an Austrian team last year.

Ruggiero grew up playing hockey with boys, and in recent years, she's been joining her brother on summer league teams.

"I'm used to getting hit," she said, a bright and intact smile belying her participation in games she says are "a second quicker" and more physical than the women's sport.

She has never broken a bone or tooth playing hockey — her own, anyway.

In her senior year in college, Ruggiero ranked eighth in the country in scoring with 25 goals and 30 assists for Harvard. But on Friday, she focused on defense.

The tandem appearance with her brother was his idea after she skated with the team in practice during a December visit.

"There were years where we didn't even get the chance to see each other play because of our schedules," Bill Ruggiero said. "The chance to get to actually see each other and play on the same team together is so special."

When they were children in Simi Valley, Calif., their father at first signed up only Bill for youth hockey. But within a month, he was taking advantage of a family discount when Angela, and another sister, Pamela, also wanted to get on the ice.

Angela found her heroes on the Los Angeles Kings, rooting for Wayne Gretzky, Marty McSorley and Tony Granato.

"There were no women's players I knew of," she said. "I didn't even know women's hockey existed."



Phil Mickelson tees off on the 14th hole at the PGA West Palmer Course in La Quinta, Calif. Mickelson trails the leader by seven shots.

Duke economics major stays ahead of the field

The Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Joe Ogilvie keeps selling himself short.

After shooting a 6-under 66 Friday to go to 23-under in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, he downplayed his round.

"I got lucky, basically. The way I played, 66 was a gift," said Ogilvie, who holds a two-shot lead over Australian Peter Lonard.

A former Duke economics major who plays the market and lists among his heroes Warren Buffett and Bill Gates, Ogilvie was asked how he would rate his stock through three rounds of the five-day tournament.

"Probably overrated," he said, laughing. "I'd probably be a buyer in the stock market, but not at 23-under."

"There's not a whole lot to go off if you're 23-under. I'd try to buy low and sell high."

Ogilvie shot 63 a day earlier and said then that, while he was leading "score-wise" with a three-shot edge over Phil Mickelson, he considered Mickelson "technically" in the lead. That was because Mickelson already had played the more difficult of the four courses used for the tournament.

Defending champion Mickelson, also the 2002 winner, wasn't in the lead technically or otherwise after 54 holes, with his 70 dropping him seven shots behind Ogilvie.

Fredrik Jacobson of Sweden remained close with a 67 that left him third at 19-under.

Craig Stadler, who won the Hope in 1980 for his first victory, moved into contention with a 65 that put him in a group with Mickelson at 16-under, seven shots behind Ogilvie.

Stadler said he probably would have skipped the Hope if his son, Kevin, wasn't also in the field. Kevin Stadler was 5-under through 54 holes.

"I think he's kind of hot that I keep scoring better than he does every day," Craig said. "I'd much rather give all my birds to him, though."

"Hopefully, he'll put six or seven (birds) together tomorrow and be good enough to make the cut."

Golf roundup

Ogilvie made much of his own luck during the third round, rolling in birdie putts of 20, 15, 25, 18 and 22 feet on his first nine holes.

He began his round on the back nine at Tamarisk Country Club and made the turn in 5-under 31. He made two birdies and a bogey over his last nine holes.

"I easily could have shot 37 instead of 31," he said of the first nine, where his drives were off-target. "I could easily have bogeyed three out of my first five holes."

On the back side of Tamarisk, they've got white soldiers — out-of-bounds stakes — on both sides of the fairways.

"Every time I looked up, I saw out-of-bounds stakes, so it wasn't the greatest mental picture I've ever had. But I got away with it."

Davis Love III had 11 birdies and on his way to a 61 that vaulted him from a 66th-place tie into a tie for seventh at 11-under.

David Duval shot a third-round 85. After an opening 82 and a 79 the second day, Duval is 30-over.

Irwin leads Turtle Bay

KAHUKU, Hawaii — Hale Irwin got off to a fast start in his bid for a fifth straight victory in the Turtle Bay Championship, shooting 5-under 67 for a share of the first-round lead in the Champions Tour event.

The 59-year-old Irwin, seeking his sixth overall victory in the event, was tied with Keith Ferguson and Gil Morgan and Allen Doyle.

Dana Quigley, who won the MasterCard Championship last week, was one stroke back along with Bob Gilder, Wayne Lee, Jim Thorne and Gary McCord.

Gary Player shot his age, a 69 and 69.

Doughtery ahead in Singapore

SINGAPORE — Nick Doughtery shot a 4-under 68 Thursday to remain in first place through three rounds of the Caltech Masters.

Doughtery was two strokes ahead of defending champion Colin Montgomerie (69) and Denmark's Thomas Bjorn (67).

Navy ends eight-game hoops slide

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — George O'Garro ignited Navy on Friday with career highs of 24 points and 11 rebounds in an 82-71 victory over Colgate that snapped an eight-game losing streak.

Sports briefs

O'Garro's point total was a season-high for the Midshipmen (5-14, 1-5 Patriot League), who also got 15 points and eight rebounds from Matt Famin and 13 points from David Hooper.

The Mids, which led 39-33 at halftime, went on an 11-0 run midway through the second half. It was capped by a three-pointer by David Hooper that gave them a 58-44 bulge with 9:46 to play. The Mids crossed the lead to 16 with four minutes to play.

Navy had a big advantage at the foul line, making 24 of 35 free throws while Colgate had just nine free throws. O'Garro was 10-for-13 from the line and 7-for-11 from the floor.

Navy forced 24 turnovers and tied its team-high this season with 16 assists.

Navy's top scorer this season, Larame Mergerson, returned to the lineup after sitting out five games with a hand injury and had 9 points in 19 minutes.

Jon Simon led Colgate (8-11, 3-3) with 15 points.

Lehigh blows out Army

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — Nick Monsere scored 20 points and Jose Olivero added 19 points and 11 rebounds as Lehigh beat Army 63-45 on Friday night.

Lehigh (10-9, 4-2 Patriot League) opened the game with a 23-6 run. But Army (3-15, 1-5) caught the half with a 14-2 run to cut Lehigh's lead to seven.

The Black Knights made just seven of 24 field-goal attempts in the second half, 35 percent for the game, and were outbounded 39-20.

Colin Harris led Army with 18 points, while Matt Bell scored 13.

BALCO's Conte seeks to avoid grand jury testimony

SAN FRANCISCO — The founder of the nutritional supplement firm at the center of a steroid scandal involving top athletes is trying to avoid testifying before a grand jury investigating allegations of steroid testing, according to court documents.

Victor Conte is subpoenaed to appear before the San Francisco panel Tuesday and turn over the contents of the center data in a computer from the Burlingame-based Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

Authorities raided his San Mateo house Wednesday, seizing a computer, cellular phone and lab records in an attempt to find the source of the leak. The grand jury investigation led to indictments of Conte and three other men connected to BALCO.

Conte's attorney, Richard Holley, said in a court filing Friday that the computer hard drive contains trial strategy, which is covered by attorney-client privilege.

Angela Ruggiero (center), who played on the past two women's U.S. Olympic teams, became the first woman to play a position other than goalie in a U.S. men's pro hockey game.



Miller strikes gold as worlds open

American star holds off three Austrians with a rousing effort

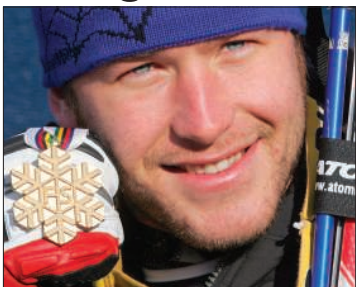
BY ANDREW DAMPF
The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — Bode Miller won the super giant slalom Saturday to open the Alpine World Ski Championships, gaining his first victory in six weeks despite nearly jumping off the course midway through his run.

Miller, who plans to race all six events in the worlds, covered the Stelvio course in 1 minute, 27.55 seconds to gain his sixth medal in world championships and Olympic competition.

He was followed by three Austrians: Michael Walchhofer, 0.14 seconds behind; Benjamin Raich, second to Miller in the overall World Cup standings, 0.68 back; and Hermann Maier, 0.85 behind. Miller's American teammate, Daron Rahvles, the 2001 super-G world champion, was 10th.

"It feels good. It has been awhile," Miller said. "It wasn't the best of runs, but when I came down and crossed the finish I thought I would be lucky to hang



Bode Miller shows off the gold medal he earned for winning Saturday's super-G, the opening event of the Alpine World Ski Championships.

on to a top-three. I was surprised to have won."

He usually focuses more on skiing well than posting a good result.

"But sometimes you just have to take the result," he said. "On a day where no one had a perfect run and you were the best, it's still a good feeling."

Miller began the season by piloting up six victories in the first 10

races, but hadn't won since capturing a night slalom in Sestriere, Italy on Dec. 13.

Miller went farther than any other skier on the longest jump, landing outside the lines indicating the course for skiers and had to immediately change direction at full speed to make it past the next gate.

In the previous worlds, at St. Moritz, Switzerland, in 2003, Miller

er tied for second with Maier behind super-G winner Stephan Eberharter, an Austrian who retired after last season.

This race lived up to its billing as a duel between Austrians and Americans, with the elite portion coming down to the final five skiers, all from the two countries.

Raich started No. 26 and posted the fastest time to that point.

Then came Miller with the No. 27 bib, showing his usual unorthodox, flailing form but skiing far faster than anyone else all the way through.

Walchhofer was next and held a 0.04-second lead on Miller at the final split, only to succumb to a slight slip in the final section.

"I'm so happy because my super-G is never as good as my downhill," said Walchhofer, who will defend his downhill world title next Saturday. "It was important — two medals. There is a lot of pressure in Austria for skiing."

Rahvles started 29th but was behind by the first checkpoint and lost more time as he made his way to the finish.

Maier, who won a super-G in Kitzbuehel, Austria, on Monday, was the final top skier out of the starting hut. He was in position for a top-three finish at the last split, but he also lost a lot of time on the final section featuring a jump just before the finish line.

The women's super-G is Sunday in nearby Santa Caterina Valfurva.

Alpine World Ski Championships

Men's Super-G
Stelvio Course (1.3 miles)
Bormio, Italy

1. Bode Miller, United States, 1 minute, 27.55 seconds.
2. Michael Walchhofer, Austria, 1:27.69.
3. Benjamin Raich, Austria, 1:28.23.
4. Hermann Maier, Austria, 1:28.45.
5. Marco Buechel, Liechtenstein, 1:28.61.
6. Florian Eckert, Germany, 1:28.69.
7. Aksel Lund Svindal, Norway, 1:29.16 (tie) Didier Defago, Switzerland, 1:29.16.
9. David Poisson, France, 1:29.24.
10. Daron Rahvles, United States, 1:29.75.
11. Lasse Kjus, Norway, 1:29.31.
12. Ambrosi Hoffmann, Switzerland, 1:29.46.
13. Francois Bourque, Canada, 1:29.57.
14. Bjørne Sollbakken, Norway, 1:29.67.
15. Erik Guay, Canada, 1:29.74.
16. Kurt Sittenbach, Italy, 1:29.80.
21. Stephan Georgi, Austria, 1:29.81.
22. Kjetil Andre Aamodt, Norway, 1:29.96.
23. Finlay Mickel, Britain, 1:30.11.
24. Alex Gorza, Slovenia, 1:30.18.
25. John Kucera, Canada, 1:30.22.
- (tie) Andre Asmund, Norway, 1:30.26.
- (tie) Patrik Jaerby, Sweden, 1:30.28.
29. Scott Macartney, United States, 1:30.32.
30. Andreas Ertl, Germany, 1:30.43.
31. John Deane, Australia, 1:30.45.
- (tie) Johnny Albertson, Denmark, 1:30.45.
31. Pierre-Emmanuel Dalcin, France, 1:30.47.
33. Dane Spencer, United States, 1:30.70.
34. Borek Zakoril, Czech Republic, 1:31.06.
35. Petr Záhrobsky, Czech Republic, 1:31.15.
36. Pavel Chestakov, Russia, 1:31.39.
37. Michael Regler, Liechtenstein, 1:31.58.
38. Craig Branch, Austria, 1:31.62.
39. Sergel Komarov, Russia, 1:31.85.
40. Dmitri Litvinov, Russia, 1:31.93.
41. Roger Cruickshank, Britain, 1:32.24.
42. Bradley Wall, Australia, 1:32.75.
43. Bernard Vajdic, Slovenia, 1:32.82.
- (tie) Claudio Sponcer, Liechtenstein, 1:32.82.
45. Alex Antor, Andorra, 1:32.94.



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SPORTS

Sources: Cubs, Orioles close on Sosa deal

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Chicago Cubs were close to agreement on a trade to send unhappy slugger Sammy Sosa to the Baltimore Orioles, several high-ranking baseball officials told The Associated Press.

Medical tests and approval from Commissioner Bud Selig and the players' association remain unresolved, the officials said Friday night, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The Cubs would pay a substantial part of Sosa's \$17 million salary this season, the executives said. Sosa would agree to void his salary scheduled for 2006, they also said.

Chicago would receive second baseman Jerry Hairston Jr. and at least two prospects.

Sosa's contract gives the Cubs an \$18 million option in 2006 with a \$4.5 million buyout. But the contract says that if he is traded, his 2006 salary would become guaranteed and a 2007 club option would be added at \$19 million with a \$4.5 million buyout.

The players' association previously told Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, that voiding the 2007 option would not be a problem if Sosa is traded.

"I haven't spoken with anybody about the particulars, but from what I understand in all conversations that what was being discussed was cleared a while back," said Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer.

The teams had not finalized a deal, the executives said.

Selig's approval is necessary because the trade would involve the



The Chicago Cubs have been trying to trade Sammy Sosa since the season finale, when he left Wrigley Field during the game.

transfer of \$1 million or more. Sosa also must waive his no-trade clause.

Orioles executive vice president Jim Beattie and vice president Mike Flanagan could not be reached for comment. Cubs spokesman Sharon Panazov could not be reached for comment and Katz declined to comment.

Friday afternoon, the Cubs also were talking to the Washington Nationals about a deal to send Sosa to the new team in the nation's capital.

The Cubs have been looking for a taker for Sosa since the end of the season, when he skipped out on the finale at Wrigley Field.

Sosa initially claimed he didn't leave until the seventh inning, but the Cubs produced videotapes showing him leaving shortly after the game began and fined him \$87,500 — one day's salary.

SEE SOSA ON PAGE 26



Karl makes successful debut as Denver coach with victory over team that fired him in '03, Page 27

Miller starts strong in worlds



Bode Miller of the United States, who hadn't won a race in six weeks, won the gold medal in the men's super-G in the World Alpine Skiing Championships on Saturday in Bormio, Italy. See story on Page 31.

Serena Williams battles back from injury, dropped first set to defeat Davenport for women's title in Australian Open

Page 26



Eagles receiver Mitchell filling in for Owens on field, irking Patriots' defense with brash comments

Page 29



Two-time women's hockey Olympian Ruggiero starts, assists on goal in men's professional game

Page 30

Ogilvie remains in lead after three rounds of Hope Classic Page 30